WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE

PROGRESS REPORTS

Implementation of the
Whitehorse Mining Initiative Accord

N O V E M B E R 1 9 9 5

Status Reports

Implementation of the Whitehorse Mining Accord

Origin

Province of Nova Scotia

Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

Province of New Brunswick

Province of Ontario

Province of Manitoba

Province of Saskatchewan

Province of British Columbia

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Mining Industry Organizations

Labour: United Steelworkers of America

Environmental Groups

Federal Government

02-93-0186-012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pat Phelan, Executive Director, Minerals and Energy Branch

FROM: David B. Hopper, Snr Planner, MEB

DATE: November 8th, 1995

RE: Nova Scotia Progress Report to WMI

Pat, the following represents a follow-up to the WMI update prepared last March. These are some of the more significant initiatives and actions taken by the Province of Nova Scotia that either directly or indirectly support the Whitehorse Mining Initiative, and have occurred since the signing of the Leadership Council Accord. Where applicable the Accord's themes are noted underneath each of the specific actions and initiatives.

This has been sent to Natural Resources Canada as Nova Scotia's submission to a background and discussion document for the upcoming meeting of WMI Stakeholders on November 23rd.

Status of Implementation - Specific actions undertaken to date to implement the WMI Accord:

Draft Mineral Policy. A new mineral policy has been written and distributed for public review and comment. The final version will be produced once all public comments have been collected and reviewed. This is scheduled for early next year. This policy addresses many of the principles and goals cited in the Accord.

The Policy has been designed to foster several key conditions to ensure a successful mineral resource sector in Nova Scotia. These include: 1) a thorough understanding of the geology and mineral resources of Nova Scotia gained through continuing research and exploration activities; 2) a business climate that is competitive at national and international levels, and supported by clear, fair and effective policy and regulatory processes. This includes support for the mineral industry and promoting of the province's mineral potential; 3) greater public support for mineral-based activity and increased public knowledge of the provinces geology and mineral resources; 4) integrated land use decision making processes that consider minerals with other resource interests and provide greater certainty and clarity for land access and mineral rights tenure; 5) protection of the environment through cooperation among regulatory agencies, industry and the public in supporting environmentally sustainable economic development; 6) protection of health and safety for workers and the general public through cooperation among regulatory agencies, industry and labour; and 7) cooperative working relationships between stakeholders, and compatibility with policies, decisions and actions from other government departments and agencies.

WMI THEMES: addressing business needs; maintaining a healthy environment; resolving land use issues; ensuring the welfare of workers and communities; and improving decisions.

Taxation: Changes in taxation policy were developed in consultation with the mineral and energy resource industries to help in freeing up more capital, while minimizing the impact on provincial revenues. These changes were introduced in the province's budget last April. They include the removal of a 4 percent sales tax on materials used in the production and processing of non-renewable resources. The equity tax credit was enhanced to make investment in small Nova Scotia companies more attractive. A new corporate income tax credit was introduced to help small companies defray costs of issuing public shares. More changes are anticipated.

WMI THEMES: addressing business needs

New Environment Act: A new Environment Act was passed by Cabinet in January 1995. The new Act replaces 18 statutes and 40 sets of Regulations (some back to 1919). The old statutes were cumbersome, complicated and sometimes contradictory. The new Act allows for a more streamlined and practical environmental assessment process for new projects, and specific time requirements for government responses to all environmental applications.

WMI THEMES: maintaining a healthy environment; addressing business needs.

One-window service: The province's "one-window" process is a formal committee structure under which the various government departments involved in mine development approvals function as a team to simplify the review process for both government and the mining industry. The departments involved in the process for all projects are: Environment, Labour, and Natural Resources. Other provincial, federal or municipal government representatives are involved on a project by project basis, as required.

WMI THEMES: maintaining a healthy environment; addressing business needs.

Abandoned mines: A detailed review of abandoned underground mines is continuing. In addition to locating the sites this program will identify the safety risks, environmental hazards and reclamation liabilities.

WMI THEMES: maintaining a healthy environment.

Protected areas: Early this year a review panel completed public hearings to hear comments on the Parks and Protected Areas System Plan. The panel has now presented its final report to the Minister and a decision on the findings is expected very soon.

WMI THEMES: resolving land use issues; maintaining a healthy environment.

Land access. A Land Designation and Ownership map and database is being developed for the province using GIS technology. Derived mapping will be used to illustrate land access and to determine areas that are likely to experience conflict between protected area planning and mineral potential. This map and database is also being designed to be compatible with NATLUS (or LIN-Can).

WMI THEMES: resolving land use issues

Integrated resource management. An integrated resource management pilot project for Crown lands is being conducted by staff of the Department of Natural Resources. This project is testing an integrated decision making process to resolve multiple interests in resources on Crown land.

WMI THEMES: resolving land use issues

Sustainable Development Strategy. An implementation plan for Nova Scotia's Sustainable Development Strategy is nearly ready for public review and comment. This strategy also addresses many of the principles and goals of the Accord.

WMI THEMES: addressing business needs; maintaining a healthy environment; resolving land use issues; ensuring the welfare of workers and communities; and improving decisions.

Planning Act revision. Nova Scotia's Planning Act is undergoing a review. A draft version of the Act will be released as a discussion document for public review and comment in late November 1995. This document will include "statements of provincial interest" which enables the province to identify resource management principles and goals and ways to implement resource planning objectives within the context of municipal planning.

WMI THEMES: resolving land use issues; ensuring the welfare of workers and communities; and improving decisions.

Health and safety. A review of the occupational health and safety mining regulations is continuing. This is to improve worker health and safety standards, accommodate changing technology, and provide clearer rules for workers and employers.

WMI THEMES: ensuring the welfare of workers and communities.

Hoping this meets with your approval,

Sincerely,

David B. Hopper
Snr Planner, MEB

cc Dan Johnston - Fax (604) 722-2892
Wanda Hoskin, Natural Resources Canada

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

PROGRESS REPORT ON WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE

While the Province is not an official signatory to WMI, we are pleased to report some progress towards WMI goals and objectives and several actions taken in the spirit of WMI

In the areas of Finance/Taxation the province has taken the following actions:

(1) Effective January 1, 1995 the provinces mining tax regime has been amended to provide for; (a) the deduction of corporate income tax against mining tax for the first 10 years of a new mining operation, (b) rapid depreciation of capital costs and (c) generous treatment of the processing allowance for mining, milling and smelting.

(2) Effective January 1, 1995 the provincial corporate income tax rate is reduced to 14 percent.

(3) The province has introduced new "Economic Diversification" legislation whereby new mining and other projects may apply for a 10 year holiday from corporate income tax as well as non-profit taxes such as retail sales tax and payroll taxes. Companies may also be eligible for partial tax relief for an additional five years.

(4) Industrial hydro rates have been reduced again in 1995.

(5) The Province has appointed a regulatory commissioner to review all government regulations and to retain only those which are essential for public safety and environmental protection. Many regulations have already been eliminated or reduced.

In the area of Environment, the province has taken the following actions.

(1) An in-depth review of the Environmental Assessment legislation and an administration process has been undertaken recommendations have been made to modify the process and the legislation.

(2) Through the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, the province is participating in initiatives to achieve harmonization, on a national level, of many functional areas of environmental management, including environmental assessment.

(3) Negotiations with the federal government on a federal/provincial agreement setting out respective roles, responsibilities and cost-sharing regarding co-operative environmental assessment procedures and joint processes are ongoing.

(4) The province has introduced new regulations governing environmental impact of mineral exploration activities.

(5) The province is preparing a new Mining Act which will address such issues as mine reclamation and financial assurance for reclamation.

3) Land Access

In the area of Land Access the province has taken the following action:

1) A major report on land use policy and planning has been approved by government and will now be prepared for implementation.

2) A feasibility study on a proposed new National Park for the Torngat Mountains has been prepared with input from the Mines Branch of the Department of Natural Resources.

3) Two provisional/proposed ecological reserves have been withdrawn from staking pending final decisions on reserve status.

4) Negotiations for settlement of the land claims of the Labrador Inuit and the Labrador Innu are ongoing. Several areas have been withdrawn from further staking until July 1996 and July 1997 to provide for negotiations to continue in good faith. Third party mineral interest and mineral exploration will continue during negotiations.

4) Workforce/Workplace/Community:

In the area of workforce/workplace/community the province has taken the following action:

1) A basic training program for the Labrador coastal residents was initiated in 1995 to avail of new employment opportunities associated with increased mineral exploration.

2) A study of business opportunities for the service sector in the Labrador West iron mining region has been completed.

3) A joint government-union-company initiative has been funded for retraining of workers at the concentrator of the Iron Ore Company of Canada.

4) An assessment of the training required for the Voisey's Bay mining project. has been initiated.

Department of Natural Resources
Province of Newfoundland
November, 1995

NEW BRUNSWICK

PROGRESS REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WMI ACCORD

NOVEMBER 1995

New Brunswick
November 1995

IMPLEMENTATION WMI ACCORD

NEW BRUNSWICK

I. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The major focus of implementing the WMI Accord will occur under the five (5) main initiatives of the New Brunswick Mineral Resource Policy released in late 1993. The five (5) main initiatives are:

1. Mineral Ore Reserves
2. Value Added and Diversification
3. Environmental Protection
4. Institutional Framework
5. Public Information and Awareness

As New Brunswick implements the Mineral Resource Policy, we will be implementing most of the recommendations of the WMI Accord.

The following is a list of specific actions and programs to implement the WMI Accord currently underway, or in place, in New Brunswick:

NEW BRUNSWICK ACTION ON IMPLEMENTING WMI

	ACTION	WMI THEME
1.	Airborne Electromagnetic Survey Bathurst Camp	1
2.	MOA Geological Surveys of Canada and New Brunswick Government	1
3.	Changing Provincial Mining Week to coincide with National Mining Week	1
4.	Amalgamation of Occupational Health & Safety with Workers Compensation Board	1 & 4
5.	Commitment to Junior Mining Sector	1
6.	Commitment to Keep Mining in Canada Campaign	1
7.	Promotional activities at forums such as Western Round-up, PDAC in Toronto and Investing in Americas	1
8.	Working with federal government to streamline and harmonize legislation to minimize jurisdiction overlap and duplication	1
9.	Developing an Integrated Mineral Resource Management System	1 & 3
10.	Rivers and lakes classification system	2
11.	CLURE Report and government response to CLURE	3 & 2
12.	Examining ways to better fund minesite reclamation	4, 2 & 1
13.	Continuing efforts to reduce legislation and regulations on business	1
14.	Seeking input from stakeholders on best process for reporting progress on Implementation of Accord	6
15.	Geoscience Accord	1
16.	EXTECH II (Exploration Technology)	1
17.	Energy Innovators Award	2
18.	Greenhouse Gases - Voluntary Challenge Registry	2
19.	Full participation on IGWG Subcommittee-Aboriginal Participation in Mining	5
20.	Government working with native communities and the federal government to develop new initiatives to strengthen the performance of aboriginal students, to offer better economic development opportunities to aboriginals	5

LEGEND: WMI THEMES: 1. Addressing Business Needs 2. Maintaining a Healthy Environment 3. Resolving Land Use Issues 4. Ensuring the Welfare of Workers and Communities 5. Meeting Aboriginal Concerns 6. Open Decision Making Process

1. Airborne Electromagnetic Survey

New Brunswick has commissioned Aerodat Inc. to undertake an AEM survey over the Bathurst Mining Camp covering some 3400 Km^2. Results to be ready for release to industry in mid 1996. The results of the survey will intensify exploration and could lead to new base metal discoveries to enhance Canada's declining reserves.

2. MOA Geological Surveys of Canada and New Brunswick Government

Continuing cuts to federal geoscience programs, particularly the withdrawal of federal/provincial mineral development programs, has forced federal and provincial geological survey organizations to review their respective roles and responsibilities and to establish new principles and mechanisms of cooperations to optimize the benefits for the provinces and Canada.

The MOA aims to satisfy New Brunswick's geoscience needs by coordinating federal and provincial programs.

3. Changing Provincial Mining Week to Coincide with National Mining Week

New Brunswick has been holding its Provincial Mining Week during the final week of May. Starting in 1996 New Brunswick will change to the second week of May to coincide with National Mining Week. This will maximize exposure for the Canadian mining industry.

4. Amalgamation of Occupational Health and Safety With Workers Compensation Board

As a means to rationalize services and better service clients (industry and labour) the New Brunswick government amalgamated the Occupational Health and Safety Commission with the Workers Compensation Board to form a streamlined Workplace, Health, Safety, and Compensation Commission.

5. Commitment to Junior Mining

Recognizing that there is an urgent need to stimulate the junior mining sector in the province and that junior mining companies have very limited funds to participate, the NBEAP is designed on a 80/20 split between government and the junior mining company. The government is currently reviewing the funding level to consider recommendations from industry on increasing the maximum funding.

6. Commitment to Keep Mining in Canada Campaign

New Brunswick has committed to participating fully in promoting the Canadian mineral industry as an industry of the future in both Canada and New Brunswick.

7. Promotional Activities - Western Round-up, PDAC and Investing in the Americas

New Brunswick strongly believes that promotion of our potential is an excellent way to secure the future of the Canadian Mineral industry. At these international events we can promote the positive aspects of the industry while promoting our respective jurisdictions as excellent investment opportunities.

8. Streamline and Harmonization of Legislation

The removal of duplication and overlap in legislation can only be a win/win situation for governments and industry as both realize actual savings in time and dollars. New Brunswick is working with federal colleagues to address this important constraint to development.

9. Developing an Integrated Mineral Resource Management System

The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy is planning on developing an Integrated Mineral Resource Management System (IMRMS) which will integrate all available geoscience information. The system will have advanced data search and query features, automated data selection, and exporting capabilities. Furthermore, the system will allow the exploration and mining industry to have the broadest access to the significant quantity of up-to-date geoscience information managed by the department. It will also permit the integration of other land-use data, such as forestry, fish and wildlife and Crown Land ownership.

10. Rivers and Lakes Classification System

New Brunswick in 1995 introduced a Rivers and Lakes Classification System to protect the concept of sustainable environmental management. It sets aside examples of unique or typical waters in their natural state for future New Brunswickers. The New Brunswick government is currently developing guidelines for mineral development within protected watersheds.

11. Commission on Land Use and Rural Environment (CLURE) and Government Response to CLURE

CLURE was a major government task force to explore the various issues facing land use and the rural environment in New Brunswick. It recommended policies to protect and enhance the quality of our rural environment while fostering sustainable development and responsible use of the natural resources of the province.

Central to the government's vision for a self-reliant society is a way of life that sustains our natural heritage, respects our cultural diversity, and builds on our regional strengths. The Commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment brought forward recommendations which will assist through measures to ensure the preservation and protection of the rural nature of New Brunswick in achieving this vision. The government intends to take up the challenges offered by the Commission.

12. Examining Ways to Better Fund Minesite Reclamation

Following the federal government change in policy allowing contributions to a mine site reclamation fund as valid deductions in calculating federal mining taxes payable, a new type of security was created. New Brunswick is reviewing the options with respect to this policy change by the federal government. Reclamation trust funds allow industry and governments an opportunity to share in the cost of reclamation.

13. Continuing Efforts to Reduce Legislation and Regulations on Business

The government of New Brunswick has committed to introduce new measures to dramatically reduce the regulatory burden for New Brunswick's small businesses.

14. Seeking Input from Stakeholders on Best Process for Reporting Progress on Implementation of WMI

The Minister of State for Mines and Energy has written to representatives of Aboriginal peoples, Labour and Environment seeking their views and suggestions on what is the best mechanism to report the progress of the Implementation of the WMI Accord.

15. Geoscience Accords

With the changing demands on governments for geoscience information and the recent major reductions in support for geoscience in Canada at both levels of government, including the demise of Federal/Provincial Mineral Agreement Programs, there is a need

to review the roles and responsibilities of federal and provincial geological survey organizations and to establish new principles and mechanisms of cooperation to maximize the benefits to Canada. Accords aim to satisfy these needs. The GSC/Provinces will concentrate on bilateral agreements. Discussions on the signing of a National Geoscience Accord will continue.

16. EXTECH II

This is a Geological Survey of Canada (Natural Resources Canada) program, focussing on all aspects of geoscience to improve concepts and technologies used in exploration for new base metal deposits in Canada. EXTECH I was completed in Manitoba. EXTECH II will be carried out over five years (1994 to 1999) in the Bathurst Mining District and is supported by the New Brunswick Geological Surveys Branch.

17. Energy Innovators Award

Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited, near Bathurst, New Brunswick, was among six companies in the mining sector that received the Energy Innovators Award from Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, during the 1995 Energy and Miens Ministers' Conference in Saskatoon. The award recognizes leaders in energy management and continued commitment to improving energy efficiency. Over the last several years, Brunswick has significantly contributed to their competitiveness with improved product quality and reduced operating costs through energy efficiency, and continues to voluntarily set energy efficiency targets for the future. Such leadership demonstrates how individual companies can contribute positively to sustainable development through reduced water and air emissions.

18. Greenhouse Gases - Voluntary Challenge Registry

New Brunswick continues to be committed to doing its part to work toward the national commitment to stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. The Province has filed a Letter of Intent with the VCR confirming its intention to file an Action Plan during the fall of 1995. The Action Plan will include details on a range of initiatives, such as energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, access to natural gas, expanded forest silviculture programs and pollution prevention activities.

19. Full Participation on IGWG Subcommittee - Aboriginal Participation in Mining

New Brunswick participates on the IGWG Subcommittee which deals with increasing aboriginal participation in mining in Canada. An annual report of the Subcommittee is

presented to the annual Mines Ministers' Conference. There is a meeting/conference call November 15, 1995 to establish the workplan for 1995/96.

20. New Initiatives to Strengthen the Performance of Aboriginal Students

The New Brunswick government is committed to working with native communities and the federal government to develop new initiatives to strengthen the performance of aboriginal students to offer better economic development opportunities to aboriginals.

II. REQUIRED POLICY INITIATIVES

There are four areas (issues) raised during the WMI process which require further work to resolve. These are: Overlap and Duplication of Legislation; Lender Liability; Joint and Several Liability; and Land Security.

Overlap and Duplication

Reduction on overlap and duplication in the areas of EIA between the federal and provincial government. Appropriate jurisdiction of federal and provincial governments.

Lender Liability

Resolve the issue of lender environmental liability. Banks should be able to hold a security interest in a property of a borrower without fear of attracting environmental liability. Appropriate jurisdiction would be CCME and Mines Ministers' Conference in consultation with other stakeholders.

Joint and Several Liability

Resolve the issue of joint and several liability which is a "deep pockets" approach to allocating responsibility. Partners in a venture should be limited to liability to the level of their exposure in the project. Liability should not be established on the basis of a partners ability to pay. Appropriate jurisdiction would be CCME, Mine Ministers' Conference in consultation with other stakeholders.

Land Security and Title

Governments and industry must find a way to reduce the current level of uncertainty with respect to land security/title. Banks (lenders) are becoming more and more reluctant to lend money for mining projects given the erosion of security of mineral title in some Canadian provinces. Governments have made decisions that contravene the established mine approval process. The appropriate jurisdiction is governments to resolve this issue.

II. VOLUNTARY ACTION

We feel the Canadian Mining Association and its sister provincial agencies would assist governments by better sanctioning their membership. If governments knew membership in MAC or any of its sister branches signified a good operating/closure track record for that company then they would be much better situated to protect the public interest while securing mine development. We must find ways to sanction companies who do not operate as a good corporate citizen, an effort on the part of the industry in this area will go a long way in improving industry's image.

WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE FOLLOW-UP ONTARIO

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION: (1)

In 1994, the Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) created a Mineral Sector Advisory Council (MSAC) to provide the Ministry with advice and recommendations on mining-related matters. The Council includes representatives from the mining industry, academic institutions, labour, Aboriginal and environmental groups. The Council's first task was review the Whitehorse Mining Initiative (WMI) report and make recommendations to the Minister on Ontario's response.

The MSAC prioritized several recommendations for action:

A. Interact with the Ontario Ministry of Finance and the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) on matters relating to access to capital and OSC policies.

Action:

MNDM has placed before the Ministry of Finance and the OSC all concerns and associated recommendations brought forward during the WMI process or submitted separately by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Investment Committee and the OSC Advisory committee on "Policy 5.2". Senior Ministry of Finance staff have acknowledged the financing concerns and proposals identified by the mining community.

The OSC Task Force on Improving Small Business Financing, which received input via MNDM, published a Discussion Paper and is currently reviewing comments on it. MNDM advertised the discussion paper in the Northern Miner magazine to alert industry clients to send in their comments as well.

The OSC continues to work with other provincial and national regulatory bodies to harmonize regulatory requirements between jurisdictions.

B. Follow-up after the 1994 Ministry symposium that included open discussions on land access issues. MSAC requested that MNDM, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and representatives from the other stakeholders groups meet and make specific consensus recommendations for improvements to the land access process.

Action:

Ontario's land access issues were the subject of a one day symposium in Toronto in December, 1994. MNR gave an overview of their current practices in the selection of candidate protected areas and MNDM explained how it represents mining's interests in that process. Views from environmental groups, Aboriginal groups and mining companies were presented at this session. The discussion also included processes and mineral potential evaluation techniques use in other jurisdictions.

MNDM staff have been involved in MNR's review of the land use planning system for Crown Land. As part of this review, currently on hold, MNDM staff have recommended changes to MNR's planning system to ensure that mineral resource interests and rights in Crown Land receive fair and equitable treatment and are integrated into the decision-making process. Additional recommendations will be put forward to MNR as the Crown land planning system is reviewed.

The Deputy Minister of MNR has responded to the Ontario Mining Association on the WMI report. (Letter attached). He stated that the ideas put forward in the WMI report relating to land use, access and protected areas would receive full consideration in MNR's planning system review and other land use initiatives such as "Keep-it-Wild". The Deputy also indicated that throughout these initiatives, MNR would ensure that there is an open and meaningful consultation with all affected stakeholders.

C. MSAC requested that MNDM convene a group of stakeholders to to look at issues relating to appropriate policies for orphaned mine sites and the "exit-ticket" concept for closed mines. MSAC also endorsed the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee and Ontario Mining Association's position regarding the financial aspects of mine reclamation.

In response to these items, MNDM has recently amended the Mining Act to streamline and clarify the mine-site rehabilitation regulatory processes in Ontario. The amendments will :

- replace the present closure plan review with a self-regulatory system
- increase the financial assurance options available to mining companies.
- maintain high environmental standards, the focus remains on the "polluter pays" concept.

- clarify liability for pre-existing mine hazards
- address health and safety concerns associated with abandoned mine and existing mine hazards.
- clarify post-decommissioning environmental liabilities
- harmonize various reporting requirements with those contained in the Environmental Bill of Rights

D. Convene an MSAC sponsored Working Group, under the leadership of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA), including First Nations, Industry, Labour and Government representatives to develop guidelines for aboriginal-industry communication and issue resolution.

The Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA) has taken a lead role in gathering input of First Nation concerns with mineral development and is proactively leading a communications debate on these issues.

The WMI process resulted in extremely useful guidelines being developed for mining industry/aboriginal community communication. These issues are of great current concern throughout Ontario and include the province's negotiations with NAN, the TAA and other First Nation organisations.

The Inter-Governmental Working Group on the Mining Industry (IGWG) has prepared several documents outlining issues, solutions, best practices and case-histories of First Nation/Industry co-operation and communication.

E. Encourage members of the Board of the WMI Mining Sector Council to provide regular updates to MSAC on the activities of the Council and its various study or working groups. MSAC would provide advice or participate as may be requested in the work of the Sector Council.

In the summer of 1993, an extensive report on human resources issues in the mining industry was released. The report recommended the formation of a Mining Sector Council to deal with human resources issues in a structured manner. The formation of the Sector Council was announced by the Mining Association of Canada, the Federal Government and the United Steelworkers of America at the 1994 Mines Ministers' Conference in Victoria, B.C.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION: (2)

The Ontario government is considering policy initiatives that will assist the mining sector by:

- protecting mineral property rights
- freezing taxes and fees to mining sector,
- reducing government-mandated costs, regulations
- considering possible tax relief for the sector after the provincial budget is balanced

REQUIRED POLICY INITIATIVES:

Ontario's main concern with overlap in legislation and regulation with the federal government relates to environmental issues. The legislative and regulatory provisions of federal Ministry of the Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans must be reconciled with environmental provisions in the provincial Environment Ministry and MNDM to minimize any overlap or duplication while preserving the integrity of the environment.

Impediment: These issues must be resolved between the respective environment ministries.

PARTNERSHIPS:

A. The Mineral Sector Advisory Council was created recently to provide the Ontario government, through the MNDM, with input on government policy development including ways to respond to the WMI goals and principles.

MNDM also has the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Council to advise the Ministry on how to improve the provisions within the Mining Act. Each year, membership invitations for this committee are sent out to representatives from all the WMI stakeholder groups.

Impediments: Stakeholder representation on these committees, particularly from environmental and Aboriginal groups cannot always easily be found due to resource and time limitations.

The issues discussed at these meetings generally do not relate to Aboriginal involvement in the mining sector or workplace/ workforce issues.

B. The Ontario MSAC suggested that a Working Group could be sponsored, under the leadership of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA), including First Nations, Industry, Labour and Government representatives to develop guidelines for aboriginal-industry communication and issue resolution.

Resolution: This item needs a strong commitment from CAMA or First Nation representatives and labour. Some preliminary work in this area has been done by MNDM and the PDAC.

C. The MSAC also encourage members of the Board of the WMI Mining Sector Council to provide regular updates on the activities of the Council and its various study or working groups. MSAC indicated that they would provide advice or participate as may be requested in the work of the Sector Council.

Impediment/ Resolution: This recommendation has not been followed up and would require close communications between the WMI Mining Sector Council and MSAC.

COMMUNICATION:

The Whitehorse Mining Initiative (WMI) has received circulation within the appropriate Ontario ministries including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Energy and the Environment, the Ministry of Finance and the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat. Input from staff in other provincial Ministries were included when MNDM staff presented Ontario's contribution to the WMI Working Groups.

MNDM staff involved staff from other Ontario Ministries for input into the WMI working groups. The Deputy Minister also wrote his counterparts in four key Ministries to ask them for support in addressing the appropriate parts of the WMI report.

This year, MNDM also formed a Working Group to discuss Aboriginal-related issues in the mining sector with staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources. This working group is focused on developing general guidelines relating to certain exploration activities and improving communications between the Aboriginal communities and the mining and exploration companies.

Impediments:

In order to develop effective guidelines for improving communications between Aboriginal communities and the mining and exploration companies, the government will need further input from the industry associations and Aboriginal representatives. In the past, there have been some problems in obtaining input from Aboriginal groups.

X45-01759

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MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT & MINES
AUG 03 1995
RECEIVED
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

July 28, 1995

Mr. Pat Reid
Mineral Sector Advisory Council
c/o Ontario Mining Association
110 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1T4

Dear Mr. Reid:

As promised in my letter of April 28, 1995, I have reviewed the Whitehorse Mining Initiative with my staff and am pleased to provide you with our formal response. In our comments, we have paid particular attention to those sections on Land Use and Land Access, and Protected Areas. These comments are attached. I will briefly summarize our position on some of the key issues concerning our ministry in this letter.

First, I would like to commend the mining associations for commencement of the initiative, the various and diverse participants who took part in the development of the Accord and, finally, the Leadership Council for endorsement of the Accord. Clearly, there has developed a consensus on the need for a healthy mining industry, while ever mindful of maintaining healthy ecosystems and providing opportunities for development decisions that are open to participation from a variety of stakeholder groups, as well as participation from Aboriginal peoples.

I am quite pleased with the content of the Accord and that the principles and goals outlined in the Accord are along the same vein and are in fact supportive of my ministry's goals and objectives as set out in Direction '90s and Direction '90s Moving Ahead 1995, copies attached. OMNR's Goal is to contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of Ontario through the sustainable development of natural resources. The OMNR objectives may be summarized as follows:

- to ensure the long-term health of ecosystems;
- to ensure the continued availability of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the people of Ontario;
- to protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance; and
- to protect human life, the resource base and physical property from threats of forest fires, floods and erosion.

. . . 2

The ministry is moving forward with its various initiatives, including OMNR's Planning System Review, Parks Ontario and is the lead agency for the implementation of the provincial interest for many of the comprehensive policies under Planning Reform and Bill 163. Throughout these initiatives, the ministry shall endeavour to ensure that there is open and meaningful consultation with all affected stakeholder groups. These steps will, I firmly believe, ensure that the intents of the Whitehorse Mining Initiative Accord, to which the Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines is a signatory, and in particular concerns of Land Use and Access and Mineral Tenure, will be fulfilled.

The Mineral Sector Advisory Council had requested a presentation on our protected areas strategy and framework. This strategy is still in the developmental stage though we would be pleased to do a presentation based on our intentions in this regard, similar to the presentation made at the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Open House last fall, or to do a presentation of the completed strategy at a later date.

Please let me know what your preference is and when you would like us to give this presentation.

It would be equally beneficial if the mining industry could do a presentation on the Whitehorse Mining Initiative for ministry staff who are involved with OMNR initiatives outlined above.

I trust that this response addresses the concerns expressed at our meeting with the Mineral Sector Advisory Council on April 27, 1995.

Yours sincerely,

for ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Ron Vrancart
Deputy Minister

Attachment

cc. Ben Obonsawin, Deputy Minister, MNDM
Gail Beggs, Assistant Deputy Minister, MNR

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
RESPONSE TO
THE WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) is fully supportive of the Initiative and commends the Mining Association of Canada for bringing it before the mines ministers. All participants, including the Leadership Council, the Working Group, Four Issue Groups are further commended for the work that resulted in an Accord that has been signed by not only the mines ministers and mining interests, but also by the Canadian Nature Federation, the World Wildlife Fund Canada, Northwatch, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Metis National Council.

The Vision:

The Accord sets a template for how the mining industry will strive to conduct its operations in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable manner while stressing the need to seek the cooperation of all stakeholder groups and to resolve differences in a constructive spirit. This we fully support.

Business Climate:

Ontario has a vibrant mining business community and we recognize that the mix of various federal and provincial policies can create a regulatory regime that at times may appear overwhelming. The OMNR, as steward of the province's crown land and natural resources, has a responsibility to ensure that these resources are conserved and protected and that development is conducted in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. Provided standards are maintained or enhanced to ensure social and environmental protection, then the ministry supports the elimination of duplication of regulatory requirements applied to mining activities and operations.

Financing:

Insofar as there are inappropriate regulatory or policy impediments that are within the mandate of OMNR, where these are identified we will work with the various stakeholder groups to further clarify the current policy and regulatory framework.

Taxation:

The ministry, while only peripherally involved in non-tax levies and charges, is committed to ensuring that the province receives fair economic value or rent for our natural resources, without this being an unfair impediment to economic and environmentally sustainable development.

Overlap and Duplication/Government Services:

OMNR, in this era of declining ministry budgets, is fully committed to the removal of overlap and duplication between its regulatory regime and that of other provincial and federal agencies. We currently have a number of initiatives to streamline various approval and permit processes and to consolidate services where significant savings can be identified. Where identified services affect the mining industry, we will consult with the Ontario Mining Association and strive to address these on a priority basis, as staff and resources allow. OMNR, through its partnership initiatives, also encourages more self monitoring and self regulation by industry itself.

Environmental Protection:

OMNR is extremely pleased with the commitment to environmental protection included in the Accord. The principles and goals parallel those of Directions '90s of this ministry in assuring maintenance of sustainable ecosystems. The Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) of Ontario has provided a vehicle for the funding of the reclamation of abandoned pits and quarries in southern Ontario. Perhaps this type of dedicated trust fund (i.e. under the ARA it is supported by the aggregate industry through a levy on current production) could be considered as a model for a similar fund for the reclamation of disturbed areas associated with old mine sites.

Planning and Environmental Assessment:

It is important that environmental assessment of proposed mining projects consider the full range of natural resources and place appropriate ranking and values on these resources. OMNR is in the process of reviewing its land-use planning system and integration of knowledge on mining operations, mineral deposits and areas of mineral potential is one area of consideration.

Use of Information and Science in Environmental Decision Making:

We fully support this principle and the goals to ensure that decisions are based upon adequate information and that there must be meaningful consultation with and participation by Aboriginal peoples.

Land Use and Land Access:

As mentioned above, OMNR is reviewing its land-use planning system, a system that was originally implemented in the 1980s. One of the thrusts of this review is to address current day issues of resource management in an ecosystem context.

We envision a revised OMNR planning system that integrates the breadth of our natural resources mandate, for example, in plans developed at the regional and local levels. We are proposing further discussions with our sister ministry (Northern Development and Mines) to determine how concerns for mineral resources are addressed in these plans. There is the intent that OMNR's resource plans not be developed in isolation and that there be full and meaningful consultation with all stakeholder groups. The system will include the establishment of regional advisory committees to assist planning teams in the preparation of OMNR regional strategies. OMNR will consult with other ministries and through public consultation with other affected stakeholder groups during the development of these regional strategies.

OMNR fully supports the provincial Comprehensive Set of Policies established under the Planning Act as amended with Bill 163. Under this Planning Reform, regional municipalities are now required to prepare Official Plans that encompass these policies, including the identification and protection of existing mineral operations, mineral deposits and areas of mineral potential. OMNR regional and local plans will be developed and will be the basis of OMNR's input to the municipal planning process. This will assist municipalities in addressing the issue of the provincial interests as defined in the Comprehensive Set of Policies.

Protected Areas:

OMNR supports the principle and goals of Protected Areas endorsed by the Initiative. OMNR is committed to the Ontario Cabinet approved initiative, "Keep It Wild", announced by the Minister on March 9, 1994. With the Keep It Wild campaign, government is moving forward to complete our system of parks and protected areas. It is our goal that the ecological and geological diversity of the 13 Site Regions and 65 Site Districts are adequately represented in a system of provincial parks and protected areas. The policy for provincial parks calls for one wilderness park in 11 of the 13 Site Regions recognizing that wilderness parks are unattainable in the two southern site regions at this time. The policy calls for one natural environment class park in each site district and a series of waterway parks to represent rivers throughout the 65 site districts. In some cases where wilderness and natural environment class parks achieve representation of waterways, there may not be a need to establish waterway parks. In addition, nature reserves may be established to complete the representation for each region and district. The selection of representative areas is guided by earth and life science frameworks. Mineral exploration and development would be prohibited in these areas.

OMNR policy is that there be full and meaningful consultation with affected stakeholder groups (including mineral interests) and Aboriginal peoples as early as possible during the selection of these areas. OMNR has ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to ensure that this consultation occurs early enough in

the process and that the appropriate economic, environmental and social information is available concerning mineral rights and mineral potential before selection of candidate areas.

Certainty of Mineral Tenure:

OMNR recognizes that certainty of mineral tenure is a prerequisite to securing investment in mineral exploration and development projects. It is the recognition of this need that OMNR is committed to full and meaningful consultation during our own initiatives to ensure that candidate areas for addition to our system of parks and nature areas do not unintentionally affect mineral tenure.

Attracting and Retaining Skilled Workers/Maximizing Community Benefits:

OMNR is supportive of these principles and goals.

Aboriginal Lands and Resources/Aboriginal Involvement in the Mining Industry:

OMNR is committed to ensuring that the benefits associated with the mining industry accrue to Aboriginal Peoples at all levels of the development. The terms and conditions of the Crown Timber Class Environmental Assessment require that Ontario be pro-active in ensuring that economic benefits flow to Aboriginal Peoples from the forest resources industry. OMNR recommends that the same approach be taken in relation to the mining industry. At the same time, OMNR is committed to consultation with Aboriginal Peoples when considering the issuance of OMNR approvals for activities that are often associated with mineral developments (e.g. access roads, work permits), including the mitigation and resolution of issues bearing upon their rights and interests.

Open Decision Making Processes:

OMNR is supportive of these principles and goals. As referenced earlier and as established in OMNR's strategy document Direction '90s, OMNR intends to adhere to the principle of full and meaningful consultation, whether it's during the establishment of new parks or nature reserves, or during the development of regional or local natural resource plans by the ministry.

Whitehorse Mining Initiative Commitment:

The Initiative has gained acceptance from a very broad range of often divergent interests and the Leadership Council is to be commended for the Accord.

PROGRESS REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

NOVEMBER 23, 1995

ITEM 1 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this brief is to present a quick overview of the means by which Manitoba is addressing the principles of the WMI. The province is committed to the implementation of Sustainable Development and this will address many of the items raised by the initiative.

Specific Examples of Implementation:

1) Sustainable Development Mineral Strategy

The Government of Manitoba has adopted the principles of economic development as the cornerstone of its economic and environmental agenda. A document entitled "Sustainable Development Mineral Policy Applications" has been produced to define the policy as it applies to the mining sector. An implementation and action plan is presently being prepared and this document, in conjunction with the introduction of a Sustainable Development Act, will outline the process by which the principles of sustainable development will be applied to government programs.

2) The Mines and Minerals Act

The purpose of The Mines and Minerals Act is to provide for mining in Manitoba in a matter consistent with the principles of sustainable development. These principles have been enshrined within the Act so that mining has to be performed in accordance with their requirements.

3) New Land Use Policy

A new land use policy was enacted as a regulation under the Planning Act in September 1994. The policy provides for regulatory control of land use allocation and offers comprehensive protection for mineral resources and mining rights.

Policy No. 9 states "Economically valuable mineral and oil and gas resources shall be protected from land uses that would restrict mineral and oil and gas exploration and development. Ongoing future development of the province's mineral and oil and gas resources shall be encouraged."

4) Network of Special Places

Manitoba is committed to the Endangered Spaces Program and the setting aside of 12% of the province's land area. To date, five areas have been designated as endangered spaces, and they comprise 5.5% of Manitoba's surface area.

Manitoba Energy and Mines, in cooperation with the mining and forest industry, played a major role in the selection process.

5) Rehabilitation of Pits and Quarries

All aggregate producers, working both Crown-owned and private sources, pay a rehabilitation levy of $0.10 per tonne produced. These funds are deposited in the "Quarry Rehabilitation Reserve Account" from which Manitoba Energy and Mines pays for the rehabilitation of depleted pits and quarries.

To date, a total of 258 sites have either been rehabilitated, or are presently in the process of being rehabilitated.

6) Taxation and Finance

A variety of tax incentive programs have been introduced over the past three years:

a) ***Mining Tax Holiday for New Mines***
For new mines, established after January 1, 1993, a mining tax holiday has been implemented. The mining tax will not have to be paid until the profits for mining tax purposes equal the capital outlay in opening the mine.

b) ***Mining Tax Exploration Incentive***
Mining companies which increase their exploration in Manitoba beyond the average level of expenditure of the previous three years, receive a deduction equal to 150% of exploration expenditures.

c) ***Prospectors Assistance Program***
The Government will reimburse 50% of prospecting expenditures of qualifying self-employed prospectors to a maximum annual grant of $7,500 on pre-approved projects.

d) ***Mineral Exploration Incentive Program***
Introduced in 1995, the Manitoba Mineral Exploration Assistance Program (MEAP) makes $3 million available annually to those mining companies who undertake grassroots exploration.

MEAP will provide assistance for up to 25% of approved eligible exploration expenses, to a maximum of $300,000 per company, per year. Companies exploring in the target areas of the Northern Superior Geological Province can receive up to 35% of approved eligible expenses, to a maximum of $400,000 per company, per year.

Similarly $1 million is available to petroleum companies under the Petroleum Exploration Assistance Program (PEAP).

e) ***Investment Credit***
An investment credit of 7% of investments in new mines and processing facilities, or major expansions of existing mines or processing facilities, is available. The new credit is deductible to a maximum of 30% of mining tax payable in a given year and can be carried forward for use in future years.

f) ***Processing Allowance***
The processing allowance, which may be deducted from mining taxes, has been increased from 10% to 20% of the original cost of processing assets acquired for new mines or major expansion to existing facilities.

g) *Sales Tax Elimination*
Since April 1, 1995, the sales taxon electricity used in mining and manufacturing has been eliminated.

h) *Mine Rehabilitation Funds*
The Mining Tax Act has been amended to permit the deposition of money into a mine rehabilitation fund on a tax-free basis. The accumulation of interest within the fund will also be free of tax. Upon withdrawal, the funds and accrued interest are taxable.

ITEM 2 NEAR FUTURE ACTIONS

A) Sustainable Development Mineral Strategy Action Plan

An implementation and action plan is presently being prepared as one component required to meet Manitoba's commitment to the WMI process.

The entire process of integration will be overseen by the Land and Water Strategy Subcommittee of the Manitoba Round Table. The Round Table is a multi-stakeholder group with representation from all of the groups who participated in the WMI.

The Sustainable Development Strategy fits very well with the principles and recommendations of the WMI.

B) Sustainable Development Act

A Sustainable Development Act is currently being drafted for adoption by the Manitoba Government. When implemented, the Act will outline the process and mechanism by which the principles of sustainable development will be applied to government programs.

C) Metallic Mines Rehabilitation Regulation

The Mines and Minerals Act (1992) expands mine closure responsibilities by requiring a closure plan and financial security before mining starts. Operators must also submit annual reports on rehabilitation work performed during the life of a mine. A new rehabilitation regulation is presently being drafted that will improve environmental and financial security.

D) Treaty Land Entitlement

A process to resolve outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement has been initiated by both Manitoba and Canada. Significant progress has been made concerning the establishment of a framework agreement for selecting and validating outstanding land obligations. Less than one million acres of unencumbered provincial Crown land will be required to satisfy this outstanding constitutional requirement. Once these obligations have been satisfied, improved land access and security of tenure for the minerals industry will be achieved.

E) **Parklands Act**

Public consultation for the introduction of a new system plan for Manitoba's provincial parks will be undertaken in November, 1995. A multi-stakeholder process has been developed in order to protect critical habitat and dedicate lands to the endangered spaces campaign and at the same time honor legitimate mining and development rights.

ITEM 3 POLICY INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT THE WMI PROCESS

The purpose of the mineral strategy is to define what sustainable development means to the minerals sector, and to provide the opportunity to seek consensus on a provincial strategy from the various stakeholders. The principles of sustainable development were incorporated into The Mines and Minerals Act, which was the first legislation in Canada to be so treated. The transition to sustainable development in Manitoba will be achieved by initiating a comprehensive framework document, and related implementation process, that complements the legislative intent of The Mines and Minerals Act.

The mineral strategy will further provide the required framework linkages with many other national and international initiatives and commitments such as the Endangered Spaces Campaign, Biodiversity Accord, and the Whitehorse Mining Initiative. Many environmental problems are global in nature and require coordination and cooperation within Canada, and internationally, to accelerate practical solutions to serious problems.

Issues related to land access, environmental permitting, security of tenure, and the need to increase mineral exploration to sustain the mining industry rank near to, or at, the top of the mining industry's concerns in Manitoba. The public desire for sustained economic development and protection of the environment is overwhelming, and the potential for change is substantive. Mobilizing and managing this new change in a constructive and meaningful way is one of the major challenges that the mining industry as developers, and the government as regulators, are now facing in the 1990s.

Many economic development and environment protection issues currently end in an adversarial "either/or" situation. Solutions put forward do not always effectively resolve the environment/development dilemma. However, a policy framework and process that is based upon the principles of sustainable development provides an different option. This concept calls for a new era of economic growth in which policies for development are based upon factors that sustain environment and at the same time promote the need for economic development.

ITEM 4 No comment.

ITEM 5 No comment.

ITEM 6 No comment.

ITEM 7 PARTNERSHIPS

A) **Endangered Spaces Campaign**

In August 1990, Premier Gary Filmon became the first provincial government leader to commit to the endangered spaces goal. The commitment involves legally banning mining, forestry, and hydro development from representative eco-regions of Manitoba. The Endangered Spaces Campaign was developed by the World Wildlife Fund and supported by the Manitoba Government and the mining industry.

B) **Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy**

A multi-partite consultation forum, appointed by the Premier to advise and assist the Government of Manitoba in the development and implementation of a provincial sustainable development was established in 1988. The Manitoba Round Table will be used to implement key provisions of the WMI.

C) **Manitoba Exploration Liaison Committee**

A joint mining industry/Manitoba Government working group has been established in 1995 to advise the Minister of Energy and Mines concerning program development and issues relevant to mineral exploration. Land access and security of tenure issues will be addressed through this process.

ITEM 8 No comment.

ITEM 9 No comment.

ITEM 10 No comment.

PROGRESS REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE ACCORD
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan established a Saskatchewan Mining Task Force in 1992. The committee consisted of five industry representatives and Saskatchewan Energy and Mines (SEM) staff. The committee developed a paper on issues considered by government and industry as impediments to the growth and development of the mining industry in Saskatchewan. Subsequently, seven other provincial government departments were represented, as many of the issues were related to other government agencies.

In September, 1994, the Task Force tabled The Saskatchewan Mining Task Force Report, with the Minister of SEM. The report identified the issues facing the Saskatchewan mining industry and processes in place that were addressing them, as well as the goals and objectives considered by industry and government as critical to improving the health of the industry. Many of the issues included in the Task Force Report were also identified in the WMI Leadership Council Accord. Issues included in the Task Force Report were grouped under the following heading:

- Land Access and Security of Tenure:
- Competitive position;
- Environmental Issues; and
- Regulatory Changes and Requirements.

The Minister of Energy and Mines accepted the Task Force Report and agreed to a proposal to establish a multi-stakeholder review committee to consider the Whitehorse Mining Leadership Accord in the context of the Saskatchewan mining situation. It is anticipated that a review committee, made up of two representatives from each stakeholder group, will meet over the next year and then report their findings to the Minister.

The Saskatchewan Mining Task Force will continue to meet on occasion, to review progress on the issues which were identified and to consider new issues facing the industry.

A copy of the Mining Task Force Report is attached.

Industrial Mineral Branch
Saskatchewan Energy and Mines
Province of Saskatchewan
November, 1995

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WMI ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AS AT NOVEMBER 9, 1995

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

CURRENT ACTIONS

In British Columbia the Accord is being implemented in a variety of ways.

Advisory Council on Mining

Minister Edwards appointed a multi-stakeholder Advisory Council on Mining (ACM) in December 1994. The Council advises the Minister on policy issues and programs addressing the recommendations in the Accord as well as providing a forum for stakeholders to discuss a range of issues affecting British Columbia's competitive position. *This is in keeping with the communications objectives of the WMI*

Specific Ministry of Mines Initiatives

The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) is undertaking 4 specific initiatives related to WMI:

- Reform of mineral exploration management/environmental protection.
  addresses a key WMI principle on environmental protection and some of the related goals such as minimizing environmental impacts during exploration and providing streamlined, efficient permitting processes;
- Developing new policies and procedures for reclamation.
  addresses the WMI goal of having adequate financial assurances in place for current and future mine closures. Recently a multi-stakeholder task force submitted a report on reclamation security policy for mines and mineral exploration complimenting earlier work on mine site reclamation;
- Revision of Mine Health, Safety and Reclamation Code:
  In keeping with the WMI principle of attracting and retaining skilled workers operating in a healthy and safe environment;
- Cooperating with MITAC on developing worker training initiatives:
  addresses several of the WMI goals respecting training of skilled workers.

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General Government Actions Meeting WMI Principles and Objectives

British Columbia is addressing the land use, land access and protected areas issues through multi-stakeholder regional land use planning processes. These processes make recommendations on achieving Protected Area Strategy (PAS) goals and contribute to land use certainty and security of tenure for the mining industry.

A new Environmental Assessment Act has been proclaimed and is administered by the newly created Environmental Assessment Office. This is designed to ensure that all stakeholders interests are considered during a timely and efficient assessment of the impacts of major development proposals.

In developing proposals for new protected areas, governments have been challenged to develop policies to compensate for the loss of mineral tenures resulting from such designations. In British Columbia the government (consistent with WMI) has responded by negotiating a compensation package for the Windy Craggy deposit in northwest British Columbia that not only provided cash compensation for the loss of tenures, but also provided assistance for the development of 2 new mines: Kemess South and Red Mountain. Compensation, based on the principle of fair market value, is available to other claim holders affected by park decisions.

Progress on Aboriginal land claims negotiations is coordinated through the British Columbia Treaty Commission (established in December 1993). The Commission provides an organized structure for First Nations to formally express their interest in beginning the negotiation process and to ensure each party is ready. Third party advisory committees have been established, both at the provincial and regional levels to provide opportunities for others to have input and to receive information from provincial negotiators. EMPR sponsored three province-wide workshops on mining and First Nations issues.

The needs of mining dependent communities facing mine closures may be assisted by the Natural Resources Stabilization Fund.

FUTURE ACTIONS

In the coming year British Columbia plans to hold a minimum of three ACM meetings; one or more workshops on land use issues , mineral exploration regulations and impact of the Forest Practices Code on the competitive position of the industry. Although First Nations were invited to participate on the Council they have declined to date. They have, however, attended the most recent meeting and a constructive dialogue has begun with the Council. First Nations have invited industry to meet with them (without government being present). This is viewed by government as a positive step in improving communications between these groups. More regional forums on mining and First Nations issues on specific lands are planned for the coming year to continue the exchange of information and to build better relationships between stakeholders.

WMI championed that decisions are improved when reached through open, transparent, timely and well-defined processes with meaningful and responsible participation by stakeholders. EMPR will be working towards this principle by:

- Developing Communication Tools: improving communications to all stakeholder groups through newsletters, public meetings and the INTERNET.
- Sharing Information: Particularly in the area of permitting and approvals the Government is working to ensure that stakeholders have ready access to information about projects proceeding through the approval processes, thus making these decision making processes more open. In this respect a public registry is being established to facilitate accessing information of projects in the Environmental Review Process.

REQUIRED POLICY INITIATIVES

Policy areas that have been identified as areas requiring future work in British Columbia include:

- Harmonization of environmental assessment processes
- Integrated land planning, such that areas remain open to exploration and development after land planning processes are complete.
- Federal resource allowance proposals.

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

EMPR believes Industry, First Nations and environmental interests should continue to forge partnerships among themselves through such vehicles as the WMI and the Advisory Council on Mining. This will help to build on the important trust factors between the groups.

Opportunities for a better dialogue and understanding between stakeholders include forums on First Nations issues, land use issues, skills training and employment opportunities, site visits to mines and exploration projects.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITEHORSE MINING INITIATIVE ACCORD
DIAND Response (November, 1995)

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is responding to the WMI Leadership Council Accord as a result of its responsibilities regarding the management of resources in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. DIAND's implementation of WMI goals and principles are described below.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Actions Undertaken and In Process:

1. Sustainable Development Policy

Under the provisions of Bill C-83, DIAND's Minister is responsible for preparing a sustainable development strategy for the department, based on consultations with stakeholders. The strategy is to be tabled in the House of Commons within two years (Fall, 1997) of Bill C-83 coming into force.

DIAND has established a Steering Committee supported by a Working Group with Headquarters and regional representation. This group will make periodic reports to the Senior Policy Committee. The Minister will review and approve the policy.

DIAND will co-ordinate its plan with other federal departments and subsequently consult with stakeholders in the North. The consultation plan will be a multi-stage process that is regionally focussed. Existing forums will be used where possible as no new funding is available.

The strategy should be an integrated approach to economic, social, environmental and foreign policy. It should establish a framework in which environmental and economic considerations are interlinked, and they move in the same direction. A single strategy is desirable for the three programs (Corporate Services, Northern Affairs Program, and Indian and Inuit Affairs Program) in DIAND.

2. Agreement With Inuvialuit

Negotiations between the Inuvialuit and DIAND to overcome the impasse regarding the issuance of prospecting permits and licences in the Inuvialuit land claim area of the Northwest territories are completed. It is hoped that, as a result of these talks, the issuance of prospecting permits (exclusive rights to explore for minerals in a specific area) and prospecting licences will be normalized.

3. NWT Mining Royalty Regime

DIAND is well advanced in the work of modernizing the mining royalty regime in the *Canada Mining Regulations*. The department will release a discussion paper for public consultations early in 1996. All stakeholders will have the opportunity to review the proposed changes and discuss them with DIAND.

B. Policy Developments and Initiatives:

1. Changes to Yukon Mining Legislation

The *Yukon Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act* were promulgated in 1924 and 1906, respectively, contain no provisions for environmental protection. Although the *Territorial Lands Act* provides an environmental management regime for all activities in the Yukon, it does not apply to mining activities.

DIAND has developed a draft Bill which will amend the mining acts to provide authority to establish regulatory regimes to place environmental controls on mineral exploration, production and decommissioning of mine sites. The Bill is largely based on the recommendations of the Yukon Mining Advisory Committee that was formed by the Minister in 1990. It is expected that the Bill will be submitted to Parliament by the end of the year and that regulations for land use for quartz and placer mining will be passed at the time the Bill is promulgated. Mine site reclamation regulations will be established soon after the passage of the Bill and land use regulations.

2. Revising the Northern Mineral Policy

The Northern Mineral Policy has been in place since 1986 and, given the rapid rate of change in the industry needs to be updated. DIAND is now developing a frame work for renewing the *Northern Mineral Policy* which will then be discussed with all stakeholders in terms of the issues to be discussed and the process.

The review will build upon the principles enunciated in the WMI and will, for the first time, formally include sustainable development as a way of doing business. It is also expected that mine site reclamation will be included in the new policy.

3. The Development of a Diamond Mining Industry in the Northwest Territories

DIAND, in conjunction with other federal departments and the Government of the Northwest Territories is pursuing a number of initiatives to facilitate the development of a diamond mining industry in the Northwest Territories. These include, amongst others, valuation, further processing and security. DIAND is also working closely with BHP, the company planning to develop the first diamond mine, and other parties interested in the diamond industry.

C. Voluntary Actions:

The mining company operating in the Northwest Territories and Yukon voluntarily enter into negotiations with local First Nation peoples to develop socio-economic agreements. DIAND actively encourages this type of agreement.

D. Actions Involving Partnership:

1. Regional Study

The West Kitikmeot/Slave Study is a multi-partner, cost-shared study of environmental, social and economic issues relating to mineral development in the general area of the Slave geological province (parts of the North and South Slave and the West Kitikmeot regions). Both DIAND and the Government of the Northwest Territories have committed to providing two-thirds of the $11.3 million cost over 5 years, providing that the remaining one-third is derived from the other partners which include industry, environmental groups, tourism outfitters and Aboriginal interests.

2.Coronation Gulf Hydrographic Survey

The Coronation Gulf Hydrographic Survey has been undertaken to ascertain the feasibility of shipping concentrates from the central Northwest Territories to overseas markets. DIAND has joined together with the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canadian Hydrographic Service) and Inmet Mining Corporation to jointly fund this survey.

WMI Implementation Status at November 1995: Mining Industry Organizations

Since the last stakeholders' implementation reports were circulated in March 1995, organizations and individuals in the mining industry have undertaken additional steps to implement the principles and realize the goals and recommendations of the Whitehorse Mining Initiative. These efforts have taken several forms.

Awareness and Engagement of Industry

Those industry employees who participated actively in the WMI discussions have made considerable efforts to inform and involve other industry people following the WMI consultations. Both company and association executives have continued to give presentations, speeches and interviews to a wide range of audiences and the media, both in Canada and internationally. In addition, papers and articles have been written for the trade and general media.

Furthermore, industry organizations have attempted to undertake concrete steps in the implementation of the WMI. For example, the Board of Directors of *The Mining Association of Canada* (MAC) has reviewed the Principles and Goals of the WMI Leadership Accord in detail, with a view to laying out an action plan. Recognizing the realities of business pressures and restricted human resources, the Board decided to concentrate its efforts on a limited number of priority actions.

The *Ontario Mining Association* has also looked at the WMI recommendations to select several items for the OMA and/or its committees to pursue. Both the OMA analysis and the MAC analysis include suggested actions that it would be appropriate for other bodies or associations to undertake.

The *Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada* went to some lengths to communicate to its 4,000 members the key factors about WMI, its potential value, and how to obtain copies of the Accord. Other industry organizations have also been active in spreading the news.

Publicizing WMI Findings

Industry has attempted to ensure that the WMI and its findings became known both inside and outside the industry. The MAC has continued to distribute the Accord and Issue Group reports at its own expense since October, 1994. Every effort has been made to ensure that all industry executives, other groups participating in the WMI, and the general public have access to the original documents in both official languages. This has involved obtaining further printed versions as well as providing for electronic distribution. The effort is ongoing.

On behalf of the "monitoring and reporting group" established under IGWG, industry organizations prepared and distributed a WMI newsletter. Written by *the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada* (PDAC) with input from MAC, and based on the reports prepared by stakeholder organizations in March 1995, the newsletter was circulated widely within industry by the PDAC. The newsletter was also distributed to all WMI participants and stakeholder groups by the MAC.

In addition, the PDAC and MAC sponsored a WMI booth at the 1995 Convention of the *Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy and Petroleum* in Halifax, May 1995. This display attracted attention from a large number of the over 2000 delegates (professionals involved in earth sciences and related disciplines in industry, government, finance, etc.), many of whom were previously only vaguely aware of the initiative. The WMI booth was manned by a team of mining industry leaders, together with PDAC and MAC staff, most of whom had actually participated in the WMI deliberations. They took turns explaining the nature of the Initiative and industry employee who had participated in the WMI discussions presented a paper on the WMI process as an example of a multistakeholder initiative.

Implementation Action by Industry

As had been committed at the WMI signing in September 1994, *The Mining Association of Canada* has produced a new, updated Environmental Policy. The new policy was developed by the Association's Environment Committee over a period of several months and approved unanimously by the Board of Directors and member companies in June 1995. The text of the policy is attached to this report and further copies are available on request.

The new policy builds on and extends the Association's original policy which, at the time of its approval in 1989, was the first binding environmental policy of any national mining industry body in the world. As was the case with the earlier policy, each member company signs the policy, endorsing its provisions and undertaking to observe them in company operations everywhere. Endorsement is also a condition of membership for all new members.

The policy is intended to reflect the progress in environmental thinking which has taken place in the past several years. It is written in plain, straightforward language (avoiding buzzwords) so that the commitments will be clear and unambiguous. In addition, the policy responds to many of the themes of the WMI. In implementing the policy, companies will be taking concrete steps to realize several of the WMI principles and goals.

In addition to developing its new Environmental Policy, the *MAC Environment Committee* is proposing to hold a workshop on community consultation/involvement in the mining industry. The purpose of the workshop is to review several examples of community liaison structures and

determine if there are common principles which can be extracted from successful industry experience to date.

The *Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada* has followed up on a number of items, including: improving Canada's investment climate for exploration; addressing the problems associated with junior capital formation; improving processes associated with land-use decision making; and working to establish better communications between the mineral industry and Aboriginal peoples.

Implementation Action with Other Stakeholder Groups

As was reported in March, industry is continuing to work with other WMI participant groups as the occasion arises.

With the labour movement, concrete joint action is going forward in the creation of the *Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council* (MITAC). This is a labour-management "skills council" similar to councils that have been created in the steel industry and several other industries. MITAC's goal is to assist the development of skills needed to enhance worker health and safety, productivity, mobility and adjustment. MITAC, when fully operational, will also provide a vehicle for addressing other issues identified in the WMI, such as Aboriginal participation in the industry.

The MITAC Board of Directors, consisting of senior industry executives and leaders of three large mining unions, has developed draft strategic and operational plans setting out the objectives and proposed methods of MITAC. Regional consultations regarding these plans will take place over the next few months. Since membership and participation in MITAC will be at the option of individual operational sites across Canada, it is essential that MITAC's services are well thought out and perceived to be of value by local managements and employees.

In *British Columbia* a *Skills and Training Committee*, a counterpart organization to MITAC, has been established under the auspices of the B.C. Advisory Council on Mining (see below for a full report on the Council's other activities).

Post-WMI contacts by industry organizations and individuals with other stakeholder groups hold out the prospect of building longer-term relationships.

For example, the *Mining Association of Manitoba* is developing an effective working relationship with the *World Wildlife Fund and its regional Endangered Spaces Coordinator*. Both sides are becoming more familiar with each other's goals and methods. Extensive information exchange has taken place regarding the decision criteria used by both groups in selecting areas considered to have mineral potential or conservation potential, respectively.

Similarly, the *Saskatchewan Mining Association* recently participated in the provincial conference on Endangered Spaces and presented the mining viewpoint which has emerged as a result of the WMI.

Encouraging Other Groups

An important factor in effective WMI implementation is industry's encouragement of governments and other stakeholder groups to move forward on the agreed principles and goals. To this end, industry has continued to participate on advisory bodies organized by different governments.

At the federal level, for example, representatives of *The Mining Association of Canada* and the *Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada* are participants in the Minister's National Advisory Committee on WMI Implementation. The Committee is a multistakeholder body formed to assist the Minister of Natural Resources to devise a federal response to the WMI.

In *British Columbia*, association and company executives are participants in multistakeholder *British Columbia Advisory Council on Mining*. This Council has been active on a number of fronts since March 1995:

- In June 1995, a Statement of Commitment which embodies the principles of the WMI was unveiled by Premier Harcourt during Mining Week in B.C.
- A multistakeholder Mine Reclamation Security Policy Task Force was established to deal with key reclamation security issues. Draft policy recommendations were issued on October 12, 1995.
- A letter signed by all members of the Advisory Council was recently sent to the Hon. Sheila Copps, strongly requesting the federal government to harmonize the federal and provincial environmental assessment processes.
- A Mineral Exploration Management Project was established to develop mineral exploration standards and streamline mineral exploration permitting. Recommendations will be available for the 1996 field season.

In *Ontario*, industry is a member of the multistakeholder *Mineral Sector Advisory Committee* (MSAC). This Committee has also been dealing with recommendations of the Whitehorse Mining Initiative. At its last meeting, Committee members discussed the section on land use and land access. Also, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Director of the Native Affairs Secretariat explained their views on the WMI.

In *Saskatchewan*, representatives of the *Saskatchewan Mining Association* have participated in the Mining Industry Task Force, which had been set up as the Saskatchewan version of WMI, and which had reported to the Minister just prior to the 1994 Mines Ministers' Conference in Victoria. The Task Force is scheduled to reconvene to continue the work started during the WMI review period. Other related activities include the following:

- Working together, the mining industry, the Department of Environment and Resource Management (SERM), the Department of Energy and Mines (SEM), and the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB), have resolved the Saskatchewan regulations for Decommissioning and Financial Assurance;
- The Association and SERM recently conducted their fourth jointly-sponsored conference on Environmental Management for the Mining Industry.

In *Manitoba*, the *Mining Association of Manitoba* is working closely with government departments in consultative fashion to move forward the implementation of the WMI in terms of the principal policies affecting the industry.

Through additional informal contacts and exchanges of view with stakeholder groups other than government, industry also hopes to build the momentum towards realization of the Whitehorse Mining Initiative principles through concrete action.

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The Mining Association of Canada
November 1995

The Mining Association of Canada Environmental Policy

Member companies of The Mining Association of Canada are committed to sustainable development which embodies protection of human health, the natural environment and a prosperous economy. In all jurisdictions, in addition to complying with legislative requirements, member companies will diligently apply technically proven and economically feasible measures to advance protection of the environment throughout exploration, mining, processing, manufacturing and closure. The member companies of The Mining Association of Canada will:

Corporate Priority
Recognize environmental management as an important corporate priority and establish policies, programs and practices for conducting business in an environmentally sound manner.

Integrated Management
Integrate environmental policies, programs and practices into all activities of the organization.

Environmental Management
Monitor the performance of environmental programs and management systems to ensure compliance with company and legislative requirements and this policy.

Continual Improvement
Establish an ongoing program of review and improvement of environmental performance, taking into account technical and economic developments, scientific understanding and environmental effects of operations.

Efficiency
Develop, design and operate facilities based upon the efficient use of energy, resources and materials.

Risk Management
Identify, assess and manage environmental risks.

Incident Management
Develop, maintain and test emergency preparedness plans to ensure protection of the environment, workers and the public.

Research
Support research to advance understanding of industry's impact on the environment and to reduce harmful effects through improved practices and technologies.

Technology Transfer
Contribute to the dissemination of environmentally sound technology and management methods.

Public Policy
Work with government and the public to develop effective, efficient, and equitable measures, based on sound science, to protect the environment.

Contractors and Suppliers
Require contractors to comply with corporate environmental requirements and work co-operatively with suppliers to identify opportunities to improve environmental performance.

Communications
Encourage dialogue on environmental issues with employees and the public and be responsive to concerns.

Employees
Ensure that all employees understand and are able to fulfil their environmental responsibilities.

Closure
Reclaim sites in accordance with site-specific criteria in a planned and timely manner.

HEREBY AGREES WITH THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA TO ADHERE TO THE ABOVE POLICY.

FOR THE COMPANY

FOR THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

CHAIRMAN

PRESIDENT

DATE

Revised June 1995.

Politique environnementale de l'Association minière du Canada

Les sociétés membres de l'Association minière du Canada se sont engagées à l'égard du développement durable lequel englobe la protection de la santé humaine, le milieu naturel et la prospérité économique. Dans les différentes juridictions, en plus de se conformer aux lois, les sociétés membres veilleront à mettre en oeuvre avec diligence des mesures éprouvées sur le plan technique et économiquement réalisables, afin de favoriser la protection de l'environnement tout au long des activités liées à l'exploration minérale, à l'exploitation minière, au traitement des minéraux et des métaux, à la fabrication et à la fermeture des sites. Les sociétés membres de l'Association minière du Canada s'engagent à prendre les mesures suivantes:

Priorité de l'entreprise: Reconnaître la gestion environnementale comme une importante priorité de l'entreprise et adopter des politiques, des programmes et des pratiques lui permettant de mener ses affaires d'une façon valable pour l'environnement.

Gestion intégrée: Intégrer les politiques, les programmes et les pratiques d'ordre environnemental dans toutes les activités de l'entreprise.

Gestion de l'environnement: Surveiller le rendement des programmes environnementaux et des systèmes de gestion, afin de s'assurer qu'ils respectent les exigences de l'entreprise et des lois, de même que la présente politique.

Amélioration continue: Établir un programme continu d'examen et d'amélioration de leur performance environnementale, en tenant compte des développements techniques et économiques, de la compréhension scientifique et des incidences environnementales de leurs activités.

Efficacité: Développer, concevoir et exploiter leurs installations en utilisant efficacement l'énergie, les ressources et les matériaux.

Gestion des risques: Identifier, évaluer et gérer les risques environnementaux.

Gestion des incidents: Développer, maintenir et vérifier l'état de préparation de plans d'intervention d'urgence pour assurer la protection de l'environnement, des travailleurs et du public.

Recherche: Appuyer la recherche pour faire progresser la compréhension de l'impact de l'industrie sur l'environnement et en réduire les effets néfastes grâce à des pratiques et à des technologies améliorées.

Transfert de la technologie: Participer à la diffusion de technologies et de modes de gestion valables pour l'environnement.

Politique publique: Travailler de concert avec le gouvernement et le public pour élaborer des mesures efficaces, efficientes et équitables afin de protéger l'environnement grâce à des méthodes scientifiques éprouvées.

Entrepreneurs et fournisseurs: Exiger que les entrepreneurs se conforment aux exigences environnementales de l'entreprise et travailler en coopération avec les fournisseurs pour identifier les secteurs d'activités où il serait possible d'améliorer la performance environnementale.

Communications: Encourager le dialogue sur les questions environnementales avec les employés et le public, et tenir compte des préoccupations soulevées.

Employés: Veiller à ce que tous les employés comprennent et puissent assumer leurs responsabilités à l'égard de l'environnement.

Fermeture des sites: Restaurer les sites conformément aux critères propres à chaque aménagement minier, suivant un plan et un échéancier précis.

PAR LES PRÉSENTES, ENDOSSE LA POLITIQUE DE L'ASSOCIATION MINIÈRE DU CANADA, TELLE QUE DÉCRITE PLUS HAUT.

AU NOM DE LA COMPAGNIE

AU NOM DE L'ASSOCIATION MINIÈRE DU CANADA

PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

PRÉSIDENT

DATE

Révisée juin 1995.

WMI PROGRESS REPORT from CIM

The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum has been actively promoting the WMI on several fronts as outlined below.

CIM has published one page editorials on the "Keep Mining in Canada" campaign for the past several months in the Bulletin, a monthly CIM publication, which has a circulation of over 12, 000. In addition the presidents and other officers of CIM have written editorials on the WMI and have given speeches across Canada on the merits of the Accord.

A mining week in Canada has been proclaimed to promote our industries by the Federal Government and CIM is now encouraging all its branches, (60),across Canada to participate or put on an event during the second week of May each year. Response to date has been supportive with several innovative projects being worked on. Every Provincial Association has been asked to move their activities to the second week of May over the next few years and most feel that they can comply. This will be a major contribution to one of the goals of the WMI, and that is to promote our industry as one that is environmentally friendly and that the industry is creating value in Canada.

An Environmental statement has been adopted by all CIM members and most display it in their offices and places of work. This establishes that the people in the mining industry are practicing environmentalists and spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually on environmental concerns.

Our strategic plan clearly lays out action plans to assist and promote mining in a way that will support the WMI. Individual members of CIM are participating on all levels of industry and government in working the Principals and Goals of the WMI.

United Steelworkers of America
Métallurgistes Unis d'Amérique

Lawrence McBrearty
National Director / Directeur National

STATUS REPORT

FOR

W.M.I. FOLLOW UP MEETING

From the beginning of the Whitehorse Mining Initiative (WMI), Labour and the Labour representatives focused all of their resources through the "Workplace / Workforce / Community" Issue Group. There were a number of reasons for that limited participation, the lack of initial funding, our lack of expertise in some issue group areas and our general feeling of where could we best contribute to the process.

With that very short backgrounder to our participation in the W.M.I. process and it will become evident as we move through the process of "Implementation" that we are similarly restricted. Suffice to say there are very few areas where Labour can Initiate change on its own, in fact we would depend on partnership and/or consensus to accomplish most of the goals set out in the "Accord".

Prior to and during the W.M.I. process it was became clear, as far as labour was concerned, that the idea of forming a "Sector Council" for the Mining Industry was gaining momentum. Labour decided that the best use of our limited resources was in working with the Mining Industry to bring that Sector Council to fruition.

In that light, I will attempt to follow the structure of the questionnaire in this report and will, as you suggest, develop highlights of this report as a "Progress Report".

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

The two main themes that finally emerged and made it into the Leadership Accord came out of the Workplace / Workforce / Community issue group. those were, "Attracting and Retaining Skilled Workers" and "Maximizing Community Benefits from Mining". I will speak to the first theme only as the second one will hopefully come through the benefit of time.

Within our stakeholder group there has been much discussion on the issue of, not so much attracting, but retaining skilled workers. The problem is such that before we can retain skilled workers we need to put in place a process that facilitates how and where we develop them. We have an existing workforce that requires a much higher skill level today than it did ten, twenty or thirty years ago, technology and the demands for flexibility have somewhat driven that agenda. The problem may be, or seems to be, how do we face up to this challenge and deal with it efficiently, effectively and in a manner that recognizes the value and joint effort of all the stakeholders.

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In conjunction with other stakeholders, labour will be actively seeking the support of management, and others, as we bring forth issues such as, empowerment, work reorganization, technological change and how do we develop the potential of all of our employees/members that allows them to be employed in a successful enterprise. We recognise that there are a number of areas that need to be addressed at all levels, however, the two main issues that we will be focusing on will be the revitalization of apprenticeship as we promote trades and the development of production employees to a high level of skill and knowledge.

In the apprenticeship area and before we attempt to bring any new apprentices into the system there is a need to analyze and establish ways that would allow us to "fix" the existing system. The existing system needs upgrading and streamlined. As an example, there are to many Trades, the curriculum is not maintained at a high enough knowledge/skill level, there is a need for national standards, there is a need for a National Apprenticeship Board to work in harmony with the existing Provincial Boards and there is an absolute need to do something about funding the system adequately. If we allow the status quo to prevail then I have my doubts, at least in the Industrial sector, about getting many employers involved.

In the area of production employees, labour understands the issue of individual classifications and the perceived rigidity of these hierarchies inside a collective bargaining agreement. The question and the challenge is how to we meet the goals of an enterprise to be competitive and flexible in this global economy and at the same time meet the needs of the development of those employees. We would suggest that through initiatives such as empowerment, work reorganization, better design of the workplace and proper planning will allow us to jointly move ahead in this area. Labour would suggest that with the creation of the sector council we will go a long way in developing and implementing a framework that will accomplish those very goals.

REQUIRED POLICY INITIATIVES:

There is probably no requirement for any new policy initiatives. However, in the apprenticeship area there is a need to make some changes such as those I raised earlier. We know that the training of apprentices is a Provincial jurisdiction, the problem is in the industrial sector there seems to be no appetite by most of the employers to provide apprenticeship opportunities, in that case it doesn't matter who's jurisdiction it is.

Labour would suggest that a structure that provides for national standards, with a national apprenticeship committee working in harmony with their Provincial counterparts and the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA), would at least be a start. How about identifying those trades that are required across the Country in all sectors of the economy, how about agreeing to a common title for each of these trades. By establishing and maintaining a common curriculum and sequencing we create an cost efficient system that allows for portability. Let us put a stop to creation of those employer specific or designer trades. These types of trades do nothing for the employer, the employee or the Country.

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VOLUNTARY ACTION:

As I stated earlier Labour has a tough time enacting anything unilaterally. What we can do is collect the idea's from our membership, fine tune them through dialogue and/or policy and work with other stakeholders in an attempt to implement those idea's.

The basic Impediments to Labour are that we are not the Government and we do not own any mining properties, therefor if the Government is not listening and the owner of the mining property won't listen either we are in effect stuck. We can attempt to negotiate these types of approaches through the normal collective bargaining process, but in an adversarial arena such as collective bargaining is neither a model of good planning or appropriate.

PARTNERSHIPS:

This is the area where we feel most can be accomplished. We feel that when we conclude the process of building the structure of the sector Council we will be able to begin a new era of training and adjustment in the Mining Industry. Further, we believe that with the sector council in place it will become the best vehicle for all of the stakeholders to build a socially, economically, sustainable and prosperous mining industry, underpinned by political and community consensus.

The only impediments to the formation of a sector council that can be identified this early in the process would be the concept and acceptance of a new way of doing business, the development of a true training culture. One that is not dependant on the condition of the bottom line of the budget, but one that is an investment in your biggest asset, your people.

COMMUNICATION:

The best form of communication requires dialogue, this means between all of the stakeholders at one time or another, the question is how do we do this. One way is to involve those effected at the ground level. This can be done through joint ventures, whether it is simply a new piece of technology, work schedules, the design of how we work and training are some examples of joint projects that could be undertaken in a new working environment.

I would not want to speak for other stakeholders but certainly the area of communication is one that requires work and effort by all.

WMI Accord Implementation Review
Draft Environmental Summary

I. Status of Implementation

Environmental organizations have worked in many ways to promote the spirit and intent of the WMI. At the national and regional level work has been undertaken towards the specific WMI principles and many of the goals in terms of business climate, overlap and duplication, environmental protection, planning and environmental assessment, use of information and science in environmental decision making, land use and land access, protected areas and open decision-making processes.

There is a commonly expressed concern that the actual successful implementation of the integrated WMI vision to date has been is extremely limited. It is seen as no small irony that the one region which has probably made most headway on a variety of balanced WMI principles, British Columbia, is also that which tends to receive the harshest criticism from the industry.

Current independent activities

- A series of articles, fact sheets and reports have been produced by various environmental participants in WMI including the Canadian Nature Federation, Environmental Mining Council of BC, the Yukon Conservation Society, North Watch, the Ecology Action Centre and the World Wildlife Fund. These pieces have been published and circulated in newsletters, regional network reports on the internet and in magazines such as Nature Alert.
- The WMI process has been raised consistently by the environmental participants in over 30 public talks and panels across the country in the last year.
- A major mining and environment training seminar held in Vancouver in May 1995, and was attended by environment, native and labour groups, with support from several professional geoscientists. The seminar included groups working with industry at many different levels, and focused on creating a more informed environmental voice on mining issues.

Activities with other stakeholder groups

A primary vehicle for joint stakeholder work toward WMI principles has been the regional and national WMI Advisory Committees

- Environmental community members have taken part in mining advisory committees at the federal and provincial level including BC and Ontario. The most active committee has been in BC where the Advisory Council on Mining and related subcommittees have taken significant joint action on several key principles including streamlining permitting processes, reclamation financing issues, openness in decision-making processes, and land use planning and environmental assessment. (see BC Govt submission for details)
- Members of the Ontario committee have expressed interest in continuing their commitment to implementation, although the WMI committee is currently inactive. Concerns are being raised about the future of the committee under the new administration.

- Representatives from the NWT and Yukon have unsuccessfully sought dialogue and commitment with regional government and industry on WMI implementation.

WMI principles have also formed a substantial part of the framework for environmental input into various policy and planning initiatives. Examples include,

- the Yukon Mineral Advisory Committee, the West Kitikmeot Slave Regional Study, the Temagami regional land use process and the BC Reclamation Security Task Force.
- Environmental members of the federal Minister's Advisory Council have organized, through the CEN, a meeting of environmental groups from across the country to provide input to NRCan's mining policy process.
- CNF provided WMI related testimony to the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.
- CNF assisted in the input of the Mining Association of Canada to the Senate Committee Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources.

II. Required Policy Initiatives

- Completion of the national, provincial and territorial protected areas systems to provide greater investment certainty and protection of biological diversity.
- Consistent, comprehensive mine reclamation policies in all jurisdictions, especially the north. Inadequate reclamation of existing and abandoned mines is a primary obstacle to enhanced public trust of mining in several regions in Canada.
- Successful completion of integrated land use planning and impact assessment to safeguard all interests in various regions subject to existing or potential staking/development rushes such as Voisey Bay, Temagami, Slave Geological Province.
- Updated land access policies and decision-making processes for mineral staking and exploration that consider all stakeholders whose interests are affected.
- Thorough public involvement in policy reforms affecting environmental protection and land use, such as the significant changes proposed for mine reclamation in Ontario.
- Greater consistency and clarity with respect to WMI implementation in federal mining policies in the North. Inconsistencies between DIAND and NRCan mineral development policies, and between regional and national offices of the same agencies creates confusion and considerable inefficiency in the policy process.

III. Voluntary independent actions for the future

- Education of all political parties at regional and national level to ensure full understanding of and buy-in to integrated development approach of WMI.
- Distribution of summary of findings of WMI Accord implementation report to environment community through articles and fact sheets.
- Development of a program for independent public/environment recognition of best practices/worst practices exploration and mining operations.
- Organization of training workshops and materials to promote fuller understanding of the mining process and its environmental/economic context.
- Initiation of international network of mining and environment contacts to contribute to broader understanding of global context of mining policy and practices.

IV. Partnership actions for the future

- National industry/environment workshop on protected areas and mineral development issues.
- Regional multi-stakeholder workshops on low impact mineral exploration and development in sensitive areas.
- Labour/environment educational initiative on on-site/offsite issues of environment and health.
- Formation of a working group to examine applicability of Model Mine program as vehicle for education, applied research and decision-support system testing.

V. Communication opportunities and needs

- Restructuring of the Mines Ministers' Conference to incorporate outreach to broader stakeholder groups impacting on and impacted by mining. It should be viewed as an opportunity to discuss important public issues concerning mining.
- Better communication required between central and regional industry association representatives on industry commitments under WMI. In some regions industry denial and/or contradiction of WMI principles threatens to undermine the credibility and co-operative spirit of other stakeholders working for WMI-related reforms.
- Leadership meetings to explore possibility of proactive conflict resolution at project and policy level.

Implementation of the Whitehorse Mining Initiative Accord
Federal Response: (November 1, 1995)

In preparation of this WMI implementation status report, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) consulted with all relevant federal departments. Responses were received from Environment Canada (EC) and Canadian Heritage - Parks (CH), and have been incorporated with initiatives from NRCan to form this federal response. The department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND), because of their territorial responsibility and because they were a co-signatory of the WMI Accord have a separate response.

Implementation of WMI goals and principles comprises the following elements.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Actions Undertaken and In Process:

Canada has pledged to put sustainable development at the heart of its domestic and international agendas. As per the *Guide to Green Government*, all federal Ministers are required to make sustainable development a central feature of their departmental priorities. Sustainable development is a key theme of WMI and the Accord reflects the government's commitment in this area.

Natural Resources Canada

1. New Federal Minerals and Metals Policy

The Minister of NRCan released an issues discussion paper entitled *Sustainable Development and Minerals and Metals* in September 1995. The primary mechanism for consultation with non-governmental stakeholders is through the Minister's WMI Advisory Committee. The Minister intends to use the results of stakeholder consultations to draft a new federal Minerals and Metals Policy based on the principles of sustainable development.

2. New NRCan Legislation which came into force January 1995, states that, in exercising the powers and performing her duties, the Minister shall have regard to "the sustainable development of Canada's natural resources." The requirement to write a new NRCan Act provided the opportunity to incorporate the spirit of the WMI Accord in legislation.

3. National Mining Week (NMW) was announced on May 5 by NRCan Minister McLellan. NMW demonstrates that "the Government of Canada values the mining industry and its substantial contribution to job creation and economic well-being." NMW will help focus the attention of all Canadians on the importance of this technologically advanced, essential component of Canada's economy.

Environment Canada

4. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Harmonization

Actions and discussions are continuing to harmonize federal, provincial and territorial environmental management frameworks. For example, an agreement has been completed between the federal government and Alberta on environmental assessments and other requirements. Similar agreements have been completed or are being discussed with other provinces. Through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, discussions are continuing on the further harmonization of environmental functions and issues.

5. Review of Metal Mining Liquid Effluent Regulations (MMLER)

Stakeholders are assessing the effectiveness of the current Fisheries Act Metal Mining Liquid Effluent Regulations, under the AQUAMIN program, and are scheduled to make recommendations for future environmental requirements by March 1996.

Canadian Heritage (Parks)

The WMI Leadership Accord sets out three goals related to protected areas (p 19). The first goal states: *to create and set aside from industrial development by the year 2000 those protected areas required to achieve representation of Canada's land based natural regions.*

Parks Canada's efforts during the first year of implementation of the WMI have been focussed primarily in the area addressed by this goal. Completion of the national park system is not only endorsed by the WMI but is consistent with government policy approved through Canada's Green Plan, and provided for in *Creating Opportunity* (The Red Book).

The following demonstrates actions that have been taken by the federal government in association with the provinces and territories and aboriginal organizations to contribute to completion of the national parks system, in line with the Protected Areas Principle and Goals of the WMI Leadership Accord.

6. The Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy (B.C.), a protected area initiative to represent the Strait of Georgia Lowlands Natural Region was signed by Ministers Dupuy (Canada) and Cull (B.C.) on July 11, 1995.

7. Vuntut National Park (Yukon). This new national park was negotiated through the Council of Yukon Indians (CYI) land claim. The land claims agreement was proclaimed into force on February 14, 1995 establishing Vuntut National Park through a consequential amendment to the *National Parks Act.*

Mineral and energy resource assessments of the park area were completed in 1984 as part of the park establishment process.

Six oil companies relinquished their oil and gas rights within the park area as a goodwill conservation gesture to permit Vuntut National Park to be established.

8. Bluenose (Tuktut Nogait) (NWT). Lands for the proposed park were withdrawn under the *Territorial Lands Act* in April 1995. This represents an important interim step in the park establishment process. All three aboriginal groups whose traditional territory is affected by the park proposal, as well as the Government of the N.W.T. supported the land withdrawal. In making the announcement of the land withdrawal, the Minister of CH acknowledged the contribution of Danley Bay Resources Ltd. who agreed to relinquish prospecting permits within the proposed park.

Mineral and energy resource assessments for the proposed park area were completed in 1994.

9. Wager Bay (NWT). On April 19, 1995 the Minister of CH and the President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association announced that discussions were underway for this proposed park, located on the west side of Hudson Bay. Mineral and energy resource assessment studies for a proposed park at Wager Bay were conducted over the period 1991-94.

10. Northern Bathurst Island (NWT). The Baffin Regional Inuit Association and the Minister of CH announced a national park feasibility study for this area on October 6, 1995. Technical studies, including a mineral and energy resources assessment, and community consultations are underway.

B. Policy Developments and Initiatives

1. Regulatory Reform:

On December 5, 1994, the Minister of Industry Canada, the Honourable John Manley, announced the federal government's *Building a More Innovative Economy* initiative. The initiative is one of four components in the federal government's strategy to foster job creation and economic growth. With the support of the WMI Accord, the mining industry was one of six industrial sectors identified as part of the initiative's regulatory reform component.

The regulatory issues to be addressed by the initiative include:

- administration of the *Fisheries Act*;
- land-use and related decision-making;
- definition of waste;
- permitting process North of 60°;
- regulatory impact analysis; and,
- toxic management policies and practices.

NRCan and The Mining Association of Canada (MAC) sponsored a Regulatory Streamlining Workshop on October 19, 1995. The Workshop focussed on three major issues: fish habitat management; environmental assessment and land use planning. Seventy-five

participants from federal departments, industry and industry associations agreed that the responsible federal agency/department and the mining industry, should establish a formal mechanism for addressing industry concerns. Particularly during this period of economic restraint, regulatory reform offers us an excellent mechanism for enhancing competitiveness, encouraging investment and creating jobs.

Natural Resources Canada

2. Discussions with other federal departments and stakeholders of the minerals and metals sector (as defined in the WMI Accord) on the *Sustainable Development and Minerals and Metals* Issues Paper will lead to a **new federal Minerals and Metals Policy**. The target date for this new policy, based on sustainable development is May 1996. It is anticipated that this new policy will facilitate the Canadian minerals industry's competitiveness into the next century.

Environment Canada

3. Environment Canada is leading a number of policy initiatives which are consistent with the intent of the WMI. These involve various stakeholders and include, for example, the **Toxics Substances Management Policy** issued in June 1995, the **Pollution Prevention Action Strategy** issued in June 1995 and a review of the regulatory definitions of "wastes", "recyclables", and "products".

C. Voluntary Action:

Natural Resources Canada

1. On September 12, 1995 Minister McLellan (NRCan) honoured seven mining companies for their progress under the **Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation**. The Minister publicly acknowledged that "the achievements of these companies are visible examples of the mining industry's commitment to meet the goal of sustainable development", one of the WMI goals.

Environment Canada

2. Environment Canada supported the development and implementation of the voluntary **Accelerated Reduction and Elimination of Toxics (ARET)** program. Thirteen members of The Mining Association of Canada responded in an exemplary manner to the ARET challenge by committing to a 70% reduction of designated toxic releases by the year 2000.

D. Actions involving Partnerships

1. Acid Mine Drainage

Four federal departments (NRCan-CANMET, EC, F&O, DIAND) , eight provincial

governments, the mining industry and others are addressing the problems of acid mine drainage through the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) program. This model collaborative program is expected to result in environmentally and economically effective solutions which can be implemented by the industry.

Natural Resources Canada

2. Minister's Advisory Committee on WMI Implementation

At the WMI Accord signing ceremony on September 13, 1994, the Minister of NRCan undertook to establish an Advisory Committee on WMI Implementation composed of representatives from the non-governmental sectors that participated in the WMI consultations. The selection of the committee members has been completed. The first meeting of the Committee was held February 22, 1995 with the next meeting being December 4, 1995.

In February, the committee reviewed the status report on federal WMI implementation and discussed the proposed federal sustainable development policy for minerals and metals. During the upcoming meeting, discussions will continue on the implementation of the WMI goals.

3. The Aquatics Effects Technology Evaluation (AETS) program is a government-industry initiative (three federal departments, eight provinces and The Mining Association of Canada). As partners, they are developing the base of scientific and technological expertise to provide both industry and governments with more cost-effective methods of assessing the environmental impacts of mining effluents. Total estimated savings are $10 million per year for all active mine sites in Canada and an additional $8 million per year if applied to all inactive mine sites.

4. WMI Interdepartmental Committee, chaired by NRCan has been established to ensure that the WMI goals are addressed by all federal departments and agencies. The purpose of the Committee is twofold. First, to identify areas where the federal government is undertaking work to address specific WMI goals. Second, to ensure that the initiative is continually kept in front of other departments and agencies.

L'INITIATIVE MINIÈRE DE WHITEHORSE

RAPPORTS PROVISOIRES

Mise en oeuvre de
l'Accord du Conseil de direction de
l'Initiative minière de Whitehorse

N O V E M B R E 1 9 9 5

Mise en oeuvre de l'Accord du Conseil de direction de l'Initiative minière de Whitehorse (IMW) Réponse du gouvernement fédéral : (le 1er novembre 1995)

Afin d'élaborer ce rapport d'étape sur la mise en oeuvre de l'IMW, Ressources naturelles Canada (RNCan) a consulté tous les ministères fédéraux intéressés. Environnement Canada (EC) et Parcs Canada, un secteur de Patrimoine canadien, ont répondu à l'appel. Leur contribution a été intégrée à celle de RNCan pour former la présente réponse du gouvernement fédéral. Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien (AINC) présente une réponse séparée en raison de sa responsabilité territoriale et de sa situation de cosignataire de l'Accord.

La mise en oeuvre des objectifs et des principes de l'IMW comporte les éléments suivants.

COMPTE RENDU DE LA MISE EN OEUVRE

A. Mesures prises et mesures en cours d'élaboration :

Le Canada a promis de mettre le développement durable à l'ordre du jour de ses priorités nationales et internationales. Conformément au *Guide de l'écogouvernement*, tous les ministres fédéraux doivent faire du développement durable l'une des grandes priorités de leur ministère. Le développement durable est un thème clé de l'IMW et l'Accord reflète l'engagement du gouvernement dans ce secteur.

Ressources naturelles Canada

1. Nouvelle politique fédérale des minéraux et des métaux

En septembre 1995, la ministre des Ressources naturelles du Canada a diffusé un exposé des enjeux intitulé *Le développement durable, et les minéraux et les métaux*. Le Comité consultatif de la Ministre pour la mise en oeuvre de l'IMW constitue le principal instrument dans la consultation des intervenants non gouvernementaux. La Ministre a l'intention d'utiliser les résultats de la consultation des intervenants pour rédiger l'ébauche d'une nouvelle politique fédérale des minéraux et des métaux qui sera basée sur les principes du développement durable.

2. La nouvelle *Loi sur le ministère des Ressources naturelles* qui est entrée en vigueur en janvier 1995 stipule que dans l'exercice de ses pouvoirs et de ses fonctions, la Ministre doit tenir compte du développement durable des ressources naturelles du Canada. La nécessité de rédiger une nouvelle *Loi sur le ministère des Ressources naturelles* a donné l'occasion d'y intégrer l'esprit de l'Accord.

3. La création d'une Semaine minière nationale a été annoncée le 5 mai par l'honorable Anne McLellan, ministre des Ressources naturelles. Cette initiative témoigne de l'intérêt que porte le gouvernement du Canada à l'industrie minière et à son appréciable contribution à la création d'emplois et au mieux-être économique. L'événement aidera tous les Canadiens à prendre conscience de l'importance de cet élément de pointe essentiel de l'économie canadienne.

Environnement Canada

4. Harmonisation des mesures fédérales, provinciales et territoriales

Des mesures et des discussions visent à harmoniser les cadres de gestion environnementale fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux. Par exemple, le gouvernement fédéral a conclu, avec l'Alberta, une entente sur les évaluations environnementales et d'autres exigences. Des ententes semblables ont été signées, ou sont en voie de l'être, avec d'autres provinces. Des discussions se poursuivent par l'entremise du Conseil canadien des ministres de l'environnement afin de continuer l'harmonisation des fonctions et des dossiers relatifs à l'environnement.

5. Examen du *Règlement sur les effluents liquides des mines de métaux* (RELMM)

Des intervenants évaluent l'efficacité du RELMM de la *Loi sur les pêches* dans le cadre du programme AQUAMIN et sont censés formuler, d'ici mars 1996, des recommandations en vue d'exigences environnementales futures.

Patrimoine canadien (Parcs)

B. Élaboration de politiques et initiatives en la matière :

1. Réforme de la réglementation :

Le 5 décembre 1994, le ministre de l'Industrie du Canada, l'honorable John Manley, a lancé une nouvelle initiative fédérale intitulée *L'innovation : La clé de l'économie moderne.* Cette initiative est l'un des quatre éléments de la stratégie du gouvernement fédéral visant à favoriser la création d'emplois et la croissance économique. Grâce à l'Accord, l'industrie minière est l'un des six secteurs industriels inclus dans le volet de l'Initiative réservé à la réforme de la réglementation.

Voici les questions de réglementation touchées par l'Initiative :

- l'application de la *Loi sur les pêches*;
- l'utilisation des terres et le processus décisionnel lié à la question;
- la définition du terme «déchets»;

- la délivrance des permis au nord du 60e;
- l'analyse de l'incidence de la réglementation; et
- les politiques et les pratiques en matière de gestion des substances toxiques.

RNCan et l'Association minière du Canada ont parrainé un atelier sur la rationalisation de la réglementation tenu le 19 octobre 1995. Cet atelier a traité trois sujets principaux : la gestion de l'habitat du poisson, l'évaluation environnementale et la planification de l'utilisation des terres. Il a été convenu par les soixante-quinze participants provenant de ministères fédéraux, de l'industrie et d'associations de l'industrie que l'organisme ou ministère fédéral responsable ainsi que l'industrie minière devraient établir un mécanisme officiel pour le traitement des problèmes auxquels est confrontée l'industrie. La réforme de la réglementation nous offre, durant cette période d'austérité économique en particulier, un mécanisme de choix pour accroître la compétitivité, encourager les investissements et créer des emplois.

Ressources naturelles Canada

2. Les discussions qui se tiendront avec d'autres ministères fédéraux et avec les intervenants du secteur des minéraux et des métaux (tels que définis dans l'Accord) au sujet de l'exposé des enjeux intitulé *Le développement durable, et les minéraux et les métaux* déboucheront sur une **nouvelle politique fédérale des minéraux et des métaux**. La date cible pour le lancement de cette nouvelle politique, qui sera fondée sur les principes du développement durable, est mai 1996. Il est prévu que cette nouvelle politique améliorera la compétitivité de l'industrie minière canadienne à l'aube du prochain siècle.

Environnement Canada

3. Environnement Canada est à la tête de plusieurs initiatives en matière de politique qui sont conformes à l'esprit de l'IMW. Ces initiatives font appel à divers intervenants et concernent des documents comme la ***Politique de gestion des substances toxiques***, publié en juin 1995, et ***La prévention de la pollution - Une stratégie fédérale de mise en oeuvre***, aussi publié en juin 1995. De plus, ces initiatives prévoient un examen des définitions des mots «déchets», «matières recyclables» et «produits» figurant dans la réglementation.

C. Mesures volontaires :

Ressources naturelles Canada

1. Le 12 septembre 1995, l'honorable Anne McLellan (RNCan) a souligné les progrès accomplis par sept sociétés minières dans le cadre du **Programme d'économie d'énergie dans l'industrie canadienne.** La Ministre a reconnu publiquement que les réalisations de ces sociétés illustrent concrètement l'engagement de l'industrie minière à atteindre un développement durable, lequel est l'un des objectifs de l'IMW.

Environnement Canada

2. Environnement Canada a appuyé l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre du programme volontaire d'**accélération de la réduction et de l'élimination des toxiques (ARET)**. Treize membres de l'Association minière du Canada ont répondu de façon exemplaire au défi ARET en s'engageant à réduire des rejets toxiques désignés de 70 % d'ici l'an 2000.

D. Mesures nécessitant des partenariats

1. Drainage minier acide

Quatre ministères fédéraux (RNCan (CANMET), EC, Pêches et Océans et AINC), huit gouvernements provinciaux, l'industrie minière et d'autres intervenants se penchent sur les problèmes reliés au drainage minier acide dans le cadre du Programme de neutralisation des eaux de drainage dans l'environnement minier (programme NEDEM). Ce programme, qui est un modèle de collaboration, devrait permettre de trouver des solutions qui pourront être mises en oeuvre par l'industrie et qui seront efficaces tant du point de vue de l'économie que de l'environnement.

Ressources naturelles Canada

2. Comité consultatif de la Ministre pour la mise en oeuvre de l'IMW

À la cérémonie de signature de l'Accord, le 13 septembre 1994, la ministre des Ressources naturelles du Canada s'est engagée à mettre sur pied un Comité consultatif pour la mise en oeuvre de l'IMW qui allait être composé de représentants des secteurs non gouvernementaux ayant pris part aux consultations dans le cadre de l'IMW. Le choix des membres du Comité est terminé. Le Comité s'est réuni une première fois le 22 février 1995 et il tiendra sa prochaine réunion le 4 décembre 1995.

En février, le Comité a étudié le rapport provisoire sur la mise en oeuvre fédérale de l'IMW et a discuté du projet de politique fédérale de développement durable dans le secteur des minéraux et des métaux. La prochaine réunion portera sur la façon d'atteindre les objectifs fixés.

3. Le Programme d'évaluation des techniques de mesure d'impact en milieu aquatique est une initiative à laquelle participent des gouvernements et l'industrie (trois ministères fédéraux, huit provinces et l'Association minière du Canada). Formant un partenariat, ils ont entrepris d'établir une base d'expertise scientifique et technologique qui permettra à l'industrie et aux gouvernements d'avoir accès à des méthodes rentables pour évaluer les répercussions sur l'environnement des effluents miniers. Pour tous les sites miniers actifs au Canada, les épargnes totales sont évaluées à 10 millions de dollars par année; ce montant s'accroît de 8 millions de dollars par année si l'on ajoute tous les sites miniers inactifs.

4. Le Comité interministériel de l'IMW, dont la présidence est assurée par RNCan, a été mis sur pied pour veiller à ce que les ministères et organismes fédéraux s'emploient à

atteindre les objectifs fixés. La création de ce comité vise deux buts. En premier lieu, le Comité doit déterminer les domaines où le gouvernement fédéral exécute des travaux en vue de se conformer à des objectifs particuliers. En second lieu, il doit s'assurer que l'initiative est maintenue à la vue constante des autres ministères et organismes.

MISE EN OEUVRE DE L'ACCORD RELATIF À L'INITIATIVE MINIÈRE DE WHITEHORSE
Réponse du MAINC (novembre 1995)

Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien donne suite à l'Accord du conseil des dirigeants de l'IMW, vu ses responsabilités à l'égard de la gestion des ressources au Yukon et dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Le texte ci-après décrit de quelle façon le MAINC s'y prendra pour concrétiser les buts et principes de l'IMW.

SITUATION DE LA MISE EN OEUVRE

A. Mesures prises et mesures en voie de réalisation :

1. Politique de développement durable

En vertu du projet de loi C-83, le ministre du MAINC est chargé d'élaborer une stratégie de développement durable pour le Ministère, fondée sur les consultations avec les intéressés. La stratégie doit être présentée à la Chambre des communes dans les deux ans suivant l'entrée en vigueur de la Loi, soit d'ici l'automne 1997.

Le MAINC a mis sur pied un comité directeur appuyé d'un groupe de travail formé de représentants de l'administration centrale et des régions. Ce groupe fera rapport régulièrement au Comité supérieur des politiques. C'est le ministre qui approuvera la politique, après l'avoir examinée.

Le MAINC coordonnera son plan de développement durable avec les autres ministères fédéraux, et par la suite, il consultera les intéressés dans le Nord. Le plan de consultation comportera plusieurs étapes et sera axé sur les régions. Chaque fois que la chose sera possible, on aura recours aux tribunes déjà en place puisque le Ministère ne recevra pas de crédits supplémentaires pour financer ce processus.

Les politiques économique, sociale, environnementale et étrangère doivent former un tout dans la stratégie. Celle-ci doit établir une structure dans laquelle les préoccupations environnementales et économiques sont interreliées, et vont dans le même sens. Il est souhaitable d'avoir une seule stratégie pour les trois programmes du MAINC (Services ministériels, Programme des affaires du Nord et Programme des affaires indiennes et inuit).

2. Entente avec les Inuvialuit

Les négociations entre les Inuvialuit et le MAINC visant à dénouer l'impasse entourant la délivrance des licences et permis de prospection dans la région visée par le règlement de la revendication territoriale des Inuvialuit dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest sont terminées. À la suite de ces pourparlers, nous espérons que la délivrance des permis de prospection (droits exclusifs d'exploration des minéraux dans une région précise) et des licences de prospection sera régularisée.

2. Régime des redevances minières dans les T.N.-O.

La modernisation du régime des redevances minières dans le *Règlement sur l'exploitation minière au Canada* est avancée. Le Ministère présentera un document de travail aux fins de consultations publiques au début de 1996. Tous les intéressés pourront examiner les changements proposés et en discuter avec le MAINC.

B. Élaboration de politiques et projets :

1. Modification de la législation concernant l'exploitation minière au Canada

La *Loi sur l'extraction du quartz dans le Yukon* et la *Loi sur l'extraction de l'or dans le Yukon* ont été promulguées en 1924 et en 1906 respectivement, et ne prévoient aucune disposition relativement à la protection de l'environnement. Bien que la *Loi sur les terres territoriales* prévoie un régime de gestion de l'environnement pour toutes les activités dans le Yukon, elle ne s'applique pas aux activités minières.

Le MAINC a donc préparé un projet de loi qui modifiera les lois s'appliquant à l'exploitation minière afin de donner le pouvoir d'établir des régimes de réglementation dans le but d'imposer des contrôles environnementaux à l'exploration minérale, à la production et à la désaffectation des sites miniers. Le projet de loi repose en grande partie sur les recommandations qui ont été faites par le Comité consultatif de l'industrie minière du Yukon, créé par le ministre en 1990. Le projet de loi devrait être présenté au Parlement d'ici la fin de l'année et quand la Loi entrera en vigueur, un règlement sur l'utilisation des terres aux fins de l'extraction de l'or et du quartz devrait avoir été adopté. Un règlement concernant la remise en état des sites miniers sera établi peu de temps après l'adoption du projet de loi et du règlement sur l'utilisation des terres.

2. Révision de la politique sur les minéraux dans le Nord

La politique sur les minéraux dans le Nord est en vigueur depuis 1986 et, vu l'ampleur des changements dans l'industrie, elle doit être mise à jour. Le MAINC élabore actuellement un cadre de travail afin de renouveler la *politique sur les minéraux dans le Nord*; il en discutera avec tous les intéressés afin de déterminer les points à examiner et le processus à utiliser.

L'examen reposera sur les principes énoncés dans l'IMW et, pour la première fois, reconnaîtra officiellement le développement durable comme façon de faire. On s'attend également à ce que la nouvelle politique prévoie des mesures à l'égard de la remise en état des sites miniers.

3. L'exploitation d'une mine de diamants dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Le MAINC, en collaboration avec d'autres ministères fédéraux et le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, examine un certain nombre de projets visant à favoriser le développement d'une industrie du diamant dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Divers points

sont examinés, entre autres l'évaluation des diamants, le traitement des pierres précieuses et la sécurité des diamants. Le MAINC travaille également en étroite collaboration avec la BHP, la société qui prévoit exploiter la première mine de diamant, ainsi qu'avec les autres parties touchées par l'industrie du diamant.

C. Négociations sur une base volontaire :

La société minière exploitant dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et le Yukon a de son propre chef décidé d'entamer des négociations avec les Premières nations de ces deux territoires afin d'élaborer des ententes socio-économiques. Le MAINC encourage fortement ce genre d'entente.

D. Mesures exigeant un partenariat :

1. Étude régionale

L'étude sur la région ouest de Kitikmeot/Slave porte sur les questions environnementales, sociales et économiques touchées par l'exploitation des minéraux dans la région de la province géologique des Esclaves (parties des régions du sud et du nord de Slave et l'ouest de Kitikmeot). Cette étude met à contribution plusieurs partenaires qui en partagent les frais. Le MAINC et le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest se sont engagés à fournir les deux tiers des 11,3 millions de dollars requis sur cinq ans, pourvu que le dernier tiers soit assumé par les autres partenaires, soit l'industrie, les groupes environnementaux, les pourvoyeurs en tourisme et les intérêts autochtones.

2. Étude hydrographique de la baie du Couronnement

L'étude hydrographique de la baie du Couronnement a été entreprise afin de vérifier la faisabilité d'acheminer les concentrés du centre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest vers les marchés étrangers. Le MAINC s'est joint au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, au ministère des Pêches et des Océans (Service hydrographique du Canada) et à Inmet Mining Corporation afin de financer conjointement cette étude.